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ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABASH GRANTS INTERVIEW

LD191718Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 10 Jun 78 p 8 LD

[Interview granted by PFLP leader George Habash to AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI Beirut correspondent 'Abd al-Hadi Mahfuz--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] What memorandum did the rejection front and the democratic front submit to Fatah?

[Answer] The memo which the rejection front and the democratic front [presumably the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--PFLP] submitted to Fatah dealt with political and organizational matters which have been pending in the Palestinian arena for a long time and need to be settled.

There is no doubt that the way Palestinian decisions used to be made and the need to establish a clear basis for the way decisions should be made in the future--on a democratic and collective basis--are vital and important matters for the Palestinian revolution. Unless the organizational problem is solved, we in the PFLP feel it will be difficult for the revolution's affairs and problems to be stabilized and for the Palestinian resistance to be able to shoulder the responsibility for the fate of our people and nation and consequently insure a sustained capability to confront designs and conspiracies. Indeed, it is no longer tolerable that the present method of making Palestinian decisions should continue as it is now.

However, this question, in spite of its importance, is not the basic reason for submitting the memorandum to the Fatah movement. The basic reason is the political situation and the political rather than the organizational aspect of the issue. By so doing we are expressing our firm resolve to struggle in order to move the PLO and, indeed, to move it out of the settlement course whose features have become fully clear. The achievement of a settlement has simply come to mean the total liquidation of the Palestinian revolution. And the revolution's primary purpose is to liberate the entire Palestinian soil and establish a democratic state.

Some may say that the intransigent and inflexible Zionist stand no longer leaves any room for the PLO to achieve gains, gains which might have tempted the PLO leadership to accept the proposed settlement. Despite the fact that this is true, it is clear that the reaction and U.S. imperialism are still trying to give the illusion that a settlement can be reached and that the PLO can be a party to it in one way or another.

[Question] It is being said that there are basic differences in the Palestinian arena regarding the concept of national unity and that you blame Fatah for trying to impose its own concept of unity. Is not the Fatah movement right in what it is trying to do as long as it is generally considered to reflect the unity of the Palestinian people in their various classes?

[Answer] It is quite natural that there should be differences of views regarding the concept of national unity. But this in itself is not the serious problem that we should try to avoid. What we are afraid of is the deviation from democratic dialog in settling differences of views in order to reach what is usually known as a common political and organizational program on which the various revolutionary factions would agree.

It is therefore important that no leadership should in any way think of imposing its views and hegemony on the other factions. The formula that should be adopted for the real Palestinian national unity, in both its political and organizational aspects, must emerge from an effective democratic dialog involving the leadership and the grassroots through which the Palestinian revolution can reach the best possible formula for national unity. We in the PFLP are quite prepared to accept the outcome of such a democratic process.

As for the second part of the question, namely as to how Fatah can be representing the Palestinian people in its bourgeois, middle and proletariat classes, it is natural that every national liberation movement fighting for its right to its country, independence and sovereignty at this stage of history should include in its ranks elements from all these classes. No one can deny such an objectivity. We know that the Palestinian revolutionary factions consist of various class elements with varying and different percentages. But the central point which we must emphasize is: Under which class will this class alliance proceed in working to achieve its objectives? Under which class' ideological leadership and under which class' organization will the revolution work to achieve its goals?

Looking at the history of the Palestinian struggle and at the nature of the era in which we live, closely examining the characteristics of the adversary camp which the Palestinian revolution is confronting, and reviewing the course of the revolution in the past few years clearly show that the Palestinian bourgeoisie cannot possibly be capable of leading the Palestinian revolution toward the full achievement of its objectives.

[Question] The prevalent belief among circles of the Palestinian masses is that a Fatah decision is an independent Palestinian decision. Although the PFLP is widely respected by the Palestinian people, so far it has been unable to win the confidence of the people as regards the future; that is, it has not dropped the slogan of total liberation [of Palestine].

[Answer] There are several points that need to be examined here. The statement that a Fatah decision is an independent Palestinian decision needs to be closely examined. It is true that there are Palestinian organizations whose policies and attitudes are linked to certain Arab regimes. It is also true that Arab regimes are trying to influence certain Palestinian organizations. But we in the PFLP, for example, fully believe that our Palestinian decision is also an independent decision and is influenced only by the interests of the Palestinian revolution, which are closely linked to the interests of the Arab revolution, and which are naturally linked to the interests of the common battle of the proletariat against world imperialism. This is a principal point that needs explaining.

As for the second point, it concerns what you said in the question about the PFLP's winning the people's confidence regarding the future of Palestine. It is true that the Palestinian bourgeoisie is now aspiring to a state and an authority through which it can serve and develop its own interests. But what about the interests of the rest of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian communities outside the West Bank and Gaza sector? We believe that all Palestinian communities outside the West Bank and Gaza are completely convinced that the proposed Palestinian state which is sponsored by the Palestinian bourgeoisie at present will not enable them to return to their home nor achieve the objectives for which purpose they carried arms. For example, there are about half a million Palestinians in Lebanon, a quarter of a million in Syria, a million in Jordan, and several hundreds of thousands of our people in Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt and the Arab Gulf.

Where is their interest in a settlement that will not take them back to their lands and homes? What will they gain if the proposed settlement is implemented?

[Question] The rejection front is lacking a political and organizational program that would translate slogans into real actions, and therefore it is lacking a political axis.

[Answer] Our general view of the rejection front is positive. It represents a political line which events have proved to be correct and true. This line is represented in the Tripoli document of unity which was signed by all the Palestinian revolution factions without exception. Consequently, we can say that the experiment of the rejection front is, all in all, a positive one.

In answer to the claim that the rejection front's actions did not go beyond general slogans, we must understand that, despite all difficulties, the front's experiment is a step forward and that there is a real desire by all parties to deepen this experiment. Also, we must not forget that the front includes four organizations that have a common political program and agree on rejecting the proposed liquidation policies. Therefore, we must not be idealists and imagine that we can go beyond agreement on a political program to agreement on other matters that need continued struggle and much time.

As for the second part of your question--about it being said that the rejection front lacks a political axis--it is true in theory. The existence of a center of gravity within any front is a guarantee for the success of the front. With regard to the rejection front itself, we believe that its progress will gain strength with the emergence of a leading and influential organization.

I must say that the PFLP, like the rest of the rejection organizations, is humbly aspiring to become the political axis.

[Question] The Palestinian revolution is currently passing through a difficult stage in that international developments have faced it with several difficult choices, including involvement in the complicated Lebanese situation.

[Answer] There will, of course, be a way out, and naturally there should be a solution to every problem.

We recognize the difficult position of the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon, but we also realize the difficulties facing the forces hostile to the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon and in other places. The reason we say that our enemies are facing difficulties is that they have been unable to liquidate the Palestinian revolution finally and completely, despite all the bloody battles through which they tried to crush the Palestinian revolution in past years.

What is the nature of the impasse we are now experiencing in Lebanon? The present impasse is due to the change in the balance of power in favor of the forces hostile to the revolution. We believe that overcoming the present impasse can be achieved only through the gradual changing of the present balance of power.

We must seek to escalate and intensify our activities and presence in the occupied territories. We must also consider the need for continued struggle in order to establish our right for political and military action in the Eritrean front. [as published]

We are also clearly aware of the nature of the general Arab situation, which is deteriorating.

But in spite of all this, it is clear in our minds that a decisive Palestinian decision adopted by the Palestinian revolution will gradually lead to changing the balance of power in favor of the revolution's interest.

DPFLP'S HAWATIMAH VISITS JANA, COMMENTS

LD191941Y Tripoli JANA in English 1516 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, June 19, JANA--Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, yesterday visited JANA's headquarters where he toured the agency's different departments and inspected the magazine published by the agency, AL-FAJR AL-JADID. He listened to explanations on the agency's activities. After the visit he made a statement in which he praised the distinguished role played by the agency.

He said: "Our visit to JANA expresses the appreciation of the Palestinian revolution for the Jamahiriyah's direct dialogue with the Palestinian revolution and all liberation and progressive forces throughout the world.

"We appreciate the agency's efforts, which are based on a real national patriotic commitment, aimed at highlighting the Palestinian cause and the struggle against all capitulationist solutions to liquidate our sacred national cause and our struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

"The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY has always taken a firm stand against the plans and steps of capitulation carried out by the Arab reactionary forces and the Arab bourgeois rightist regime which serve the imperialist, colonialist, Zionist and expansionist policies in the area.

"We visit the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY at a very difficult time for the Palestinian revolution. It is now subject to armed and political aggression by the Zionists and Arab capitulationists led by the Egyptian president.

"The invasion of southern Lebanon was the last attempt to strike at the Palestinian revolution from without. At the same time Arab reactionary and capitulationist forces are trying to strike the revolution from within, after they realized that we were capable of defeating the political and armed aggression by the enemy.

"We appreciate the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY's efforts in exposing the steps of capitulation and the attempts to suppress the Palestinian revolution, whether they take the shape of invasion forces which encircle and destroy the revolution or the shape of destructive forces within the revolution by the Palestinian rightists who are responding to the Arab reactionism.

"The next few weeks and days will be full of action in Lebanon as the Zionists insist on keeping revolutionary forces out of southern Lebanon. They have surrendered some regions to the agent Sa'd Haddad to play the part of a policeman protecting the Zionist entity. In this context the Lebanese separatist front stands side by side with Israel. It supports the agent Sa'd Haddad and has announced that the forces of Sa'd Haddad are part of Lebanon's legitimate party. This shows the extent of the conspiracy facing the revolution at this critical juncture, but our revolution is struggling, in cooperation with the steadfastness front, to repulse the Arab deviationist rightist forces.

"Thus, coordination between the Palestinian revolutionary forces and the Al-Fatah revolution led by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is imperative for realizing joint working plans to face the enemy and develop the Palestinian revolution and the steadfastness and confrontation front."

Mr. Hawatimah concluded by expressing once more the Palestinian people's appreciation for the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY in its positive stands against reactionary forces throughout the and its [as received] support for revolutionary forces throughout the world.

PFLP CALLS FOR REOPENING JORDANIAN FRONT

JN191720Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 June--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called on the states of the Algiers conference [the front of steadfastness and confrontation] to adopt a confrontation strategy against the Zionist enemy instead of the wait-and-see policy which they are following now.

Bassam Abu Sharif, PFLP official spokesman, said in a statement today that this alternative strategy calls for drawing up the necessary plans for mobilization and preparation. It also calls for a maximum level of assistance and support for the Palestinian revolution so it can continue to strike at the enemy.

Bassam Abu Sharif added: In this respect, we consider the reactionary Jordanian regime as the main obstacle preventing the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people from fulfilling their patriotic duty and performing their national role. Bassam Abu Sharif called for earnest efforts to resume operations from the Jordanian border area and from Jordan itself, as 1.5 million Palestinians are suppressed by the Jordanian regime.

Bassam Abu Sharif said that the opening of the Jordanian front to Palestinian revolutionary action can be done only by resorting to the masses so they can exercise their struggle against the Zionist enemy. The Palestinian official warned that the region is now on the threshhold of a critical and dangerous phase. Bassam Abu Sharif said that the regimes which have thrown themselves in the lap of the United States and are acting according to its plans are now captives of this new policy. These traitorous regimes are making more concessions in the Arab region.

INFORMATION ON SLAYING OF PLO OFFICER REPORTED

JN200917Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0852 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 20 June--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports in today's issue that "accurate information has been obtained by the Kuwaiti security authorities about the identity of the assassin of the PLO director in Kuwait, 'Ali Yasin, and the assassin's car." The Kuwaiti intelligence men went to an automobile dealer and obtained the names of all the buyers of a certain kind of car to investigate all of them. Many of these cars were watched and their owners interrogated. A car of this type was used in the assassination, according to information available to the security authorities, in cooperation with the Palestinian sides, which are offering all kinds of information to find who assassinated Yasin.

The paper says that the information available has indicated that the assassin had a partner in the murder and that the two watched the movement of the victim several days before the assassination. They also had his family under surveillance. [passage indistinct]

KUWAIT

GUINEAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD171116Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD

[Text] At about 1100 this morning his excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, and his wife arrived at Kuwait International Airport on a 2-day official visit to the country. His higness the amir of Kuwait led those welcoming the president at the airport. His excellency the crown prince and chairman of the Council of Ministers and senior statesmen took part in the welcome. President Ahmed Sekou Toure is accompanied by an official delegation, including the prime minister and a number of ministers and advisers as well as an information delegation.

Sekou Toure Leaves

LD191210Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] His Excellency Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure and his wife and the accompanying delegation left the country about 0900 today. The Guinean president was given an official farewell at the airport. His exalted highness the amir led those who were at he airport to see him off. The crown prince and prime minister and leading statesmen were also present.

Press Statement on Visit

LD191212Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

["Press statement" issued on the 17-19 June visit to Kuwait of Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of the country, Guinean President His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure paid a visit to Kuwait from 11 to 13 Rajab 1398 Hejira, corresponding to 17-19 June 1978. He was accompanied by a delegation of leading officials of his government.

His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure held talks with his highness the amir in the presence of officials from both sides. The talks were characterized by a spirit of true friendship which reflects the nature of the relations between the two friendly countries.

The two sides reviewed the ties that link the two countries and expressed their firm desire to develop and strengthen these ties and increase their fruitful cooperation in various fields for the benefit and good of the two friendly peoples.

They also reviewed the situation in Africa and explained their desire to cooperate on the question of increasing Arab-African rapprochement for the purpose of achieving greater understanding and unifying attitudes on common affairs and issues.

The two sides also discussed the Arab situation. In this regard they affirmed the need to strengthen and consolidate Arab solidarity in a way that would enable the Arab nation to confront the various challenges.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the economic field and the possibility of Kuwaiti participation in development projects in the Guinean Republic. The Kuwaiti side showed an interest in this matter and expressed its desire to have specialists of both countries complete discussions of the various aspects involved.

His Excellency Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure extended an invitation to his highness the amir to visit Guinea. His highness has accepted the invitation with thanks and a date for the visit will be set later.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM CRITICIZES FREQUENT NEWSPAPER BANS

LD151730Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Jun 78 p 12 LD

[Al-'Amid article: "Kuwaiti Democracy"]

[Excerpts] Since the state of Kuwait came into being democracy has been part of its life and the spirit of its regime. We have gotten used to this democracy becoming further entrenched every time a new amir assumes the country's leadership. The tours his highness is currently carrying out in the Kuwaiti popular districts may be regarded as another example of Kuwait's growing democracy which, as we can see, is compatible with our regime and keeps abreast with it.

We feel pained when decisions are issued suspending the publication of newspapers and magazines because of a view they have expressed and because some ministers believe that freedom does not mean chaos and disorderly behavior. Some ministers believe that press control laws should be applied in their strictest sense. Consequently, in the past 2 months we have seen a long series of decisions suspending newspapers. This is harmful to our reputation. Criticism is the essence of freedom of opinion and as long as we work, then we must presume that there should be criticism. And as long as there is a press in the country, then this press must play its role which is based on the solid concept that we are one family and that our association as such goes back many years.

Moreover, the criticism we practice is so mild compared with the criticism exercised in the democratic countries. We are aware--in addition to the fact that democracy in our country and our regime is an old tradition--that we are surrounded by conditions which we must understand and absorb.

After God the Almighty we believe in the regime and in our country, and therefore whatever we do stems from this belief and this absolute commitment.

We are surprised that our ministers should be against the press and its right to criticism and free opinion.

We also suppose that the press should at least be dealt with in the light of understanding of its position. For example, the financial losses that are consequent upon suspensions should be taken into consideration. The suspension of AN-NAHDAH magazine, for example, will result in a loss of no less than 150,000 dinars. This is in addition to the loss that AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has suffered as a result of such suspensions. Warnings should be issued so that the proprietor of the establishment may take steps to avoid suspension orders.

OMAN

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEAVES FOR PEKING

JN200855Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Muscat, 20 June--Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, left Muscat for Peking this morning for a visit to the PRC which will last 2 weeks. During the visit he will discuss with PRC officials bilateral relations and the means to consolidate them.

QATAR

GUINEAN PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS 19 JUNE

NC191823Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1656 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 19 June--The official talks between the amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure in Ad-Dawha Palace began at 1700 today.

An official source told QNA at the end of the talks that they dealt with the strengthening of the good bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in the various spheres, the current developments in the Arab and African arenas, the future of Arab-African cooperation, the developments in the Middle East crisis and issues of common interest.

The source said that the talks were dominated by a spirit of understanding and by a common desire to strengthen the ties and increase the cooperation in the various spheres between the two countries. The source said that there was agreement in views on all subjects discussed.

SAUDI ARABIA

GUINEAN PRESIDENT CONCLUDES 3-DAY VISIT

LD170746Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0655 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Jidda, 17 June--President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea and his accompanying delegation left Jidda this morning at the conclusion of his 3-day visit to the kingdom.

President Sekou Toure was seen off at the airport by Prince Fawwaz ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Mecca region; Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Markan, secretary general of the Islamic League; Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state; Prof 'Abd al-'Aziz Jakhdar, head of the royal protocol service in Jidda; Brig Mansur ash-Shu'aybi, commander of the western region; a number of civilian and military officials; and by the staff of the Guinean Embassy in Riyadh.

Communique on Visit

LD171320Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Saudi Arabia and Guinea have reaffirmed their insistence on the need for Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and for returning to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. They both expressed concern at the presence of foreign military bases and armed forces in Africa, which are striving to turn the continent into an area of conflict.

Saudi Arabia and Guinea call for the evacuation of these forces to enable security, peace and stability to prevail in Africa, and for the African peoples to be able to develop their potential and to promote and exploit their economic resources. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growth and consolidation of relations between the Arab and African states which are struggling for political and economic liberation.

This came in a joint communique released today in both Riyadh and Conakry at the conclusion of the visit by Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure to Saudi Arabia and his talks with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and senior Saudi officials.

Here is the text of the joint communique:

In response to the invitation by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 12 to 14 June 1978.

The Saudi Arabian people received His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure and the accompanying delegation with cordiality, which expresses their affection and esteem for the august guest of the country and for his stand on the side of Arab causes and Arab-African cooperation in all spheres.

His Excellency President Sekou Toure and His Majesty King Khalid held talks in which an atmosphere of frankness affection and total deep understanding prevailed. They exchanged views on various topics, specifically Arab-African relations, the events taking place in the African Continent, Arab-African cooperation and bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

On the Saudi side the following took part in the talks: His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general; His Excellency Dr Rashad Far'awn, his majesty's private adviser; His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Shaykh Hisham Nazir, minister of planning; His Excellency Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity; His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and minister accompanying the Guinean delegation; His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad Abdullah Seraj, director of the Eastern Department at the Foreign Ministry; and His Eminence Shaykh Jamil Qandil, the charge d'affaires at the Saudi Embassy in Conakry.

On the Guinean side the talks were attended by: Prime Minister Lansana Beavogui; Ismael Toure, minister of economic development and finance; N'famara Keita, minister of the rural promotion domain; Camara Damantang, president of the National Assembly; Moussa Diakite, minister of interior, security and justice; N'faly Sangare, minister of planning and economic cooperation; Saikou Barry, minister of foreign commerce; Marcel Cros, director general of the De Boke company; Abderrahman (Bay), director general of the bauxite (Coria) company; Theirno Hassan Sow, engineer and director of projects at the presidency; Ali Bangoura, ambassador, director of legislation affairs; Nabika Diallo, Guinean ambassador to Jidda; and Fode Soriba Camara, minister of Islamic affairs [title as received].

The two heads of state have expressed their desire to strengthen relations and consolidate the ties of friendship between their countries; to develop Saudi-Guinean cooperation in the economic and cultural fields; and to spread the Islamic call. They agreed on an exchange of visits by officials of the two countries at all levels with a view to achieving this objective.

His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz showed great interest in Guinea's economic projects and his majesty's government will shortly take the necessary measures to assist in their realization, in particular as regards the kingdom's participation in the Conakry dam project. In the sphere of Arab-African cooperation, the two leaders are satisfied with the growth and the strengthening of relations among the African and Arab countries and with the success of the Arab-African cooperation conference in consolidating complete understanding among the Arab and African countries, which are struggling not only to assert their political independence but also for their economic and cultural liberation and for the emergence of a world primarily directing its attention to work, accord and peace.

The two leaders stressed their support for the liberation causes in Africa and the work to help the African regions which are still under the yoke of colonialism and racism, and will support them in their just struggle to obtain their independence and basic rights. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the presence of foreign military bases and armed forces in the African Continent working to turn the center of Africa into an arena of conflict; they stressed their conviction that Af. ca is for the Africans and that those forces must leave so that peace, security and stabil' y may prevail in Africa and so that the African people can develop and exploit their economic resources in order to realize prosperity and well-being for themselves.

The two leaders examined the Middle East question and condemned armed aggression as a way of annexing territories by force; they reaffirmed their insistence on the need for Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and for returning to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination, to return to their usurped homeland and to establish a Palestinian state.

President Ahmed Sekou Toure thanked King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Saudi people for the warm, friendly welcome and hospitality accorded to his excellency and the accompanying delegation during their stay in the kingdom. President Toure and the accompanying delegation performed the rites of the Little Pilgrimage at Holy Mecca and visited Al-Madinah.

King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz voiced satisfaction at the victories scored by Islamic solidarity and at the progress of Islam throughout the world, and particularly at the constructive efforts of President Sekou Toure to spread Islam in Guinea and in Africa.

President Sekou Toure has invited King Khalid to visit Guinea; King Khalid accepted the invitation with thanks and the date will be fixed later.

UAE

PETROLEUM MINISTER ON OPEC MEETING IN GENEVA

JN191810Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Geneva, 19 June--The OPEC ministers' conference ended its meetings today by unanimously agreeing to freeze oil prices until the end of this year.

The conferees decided to form a high-level committee which will take measures to guarantee compensations for the drop in the value of the dollar. Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Shaykh 'ali Khalifah as-Sabah, who was entrusted with the chairmanship of this committee, said the committee will hold its first session in London in July.

Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, expressed satisfaction with the results of the conference. In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Geneva, he said: "We believe that we are not ready to make a decision regarding the dollar or on changing the price of oil at this time because the international economic situation is not suitable now for such a decision."

Referring to the Soviet Union's allegations that OPEC is now divided, with 12 states in one camp and Saudi Arabia in another, Dr al-Utaybah said: "This is a myth. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not isolated. If we had two alternatives--to support Saudi Arabia or to oppose it--the UAE would choose to support Saudi Arabia."

Replying to a question regarding the possibility of raising oil prices in December, his excellency the minister said: "This depends on the market. If things continue as they are, this will be difficult. However, if conditions improve, some minor adjustments in prices can be made. At any rate, if the value of the dollar drops, we are entitled to defend our purchasing power."

In his statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, his excellency the minister explained that the UAE objects to placing restrictions on production. He revealed that the UAE will double its oil production at the beginning of 1981 to reach 4 million barrels daily.

BAHRAINI PRIME MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

JN171505Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 June--Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, arrived here this evening on a 1-day official visit to the UAE.

The Bahraini prime minister was received upon arrival by His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister; ministers; heads of the diplomatic missions to the UAE; and high-ranking officials.

Immediately following his arrival in Abu Dhabi, the Bahraini prime minister left for the town of Al-'Ayn, where he will meet with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

The GULF NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Bahraini prime minister will convey to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan a message from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, on bilateral relations as well as the current Gulf and Arab issues.

Official Talks Held

JN171735Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 17 June--The UAE president, High Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, in Al-'Ayn this evening. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has learned that President Zayid received a message from his brother, the amir of the state of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The official talks between the two sides began at 2000 today. Attending the talks for the UAE were Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, representative of the ruler of the eastern area Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Brig Gen Sultan ibn Zayid. On the Bahraini side the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak and Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad.

Meeting With President

JN180930Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 18 June--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan met here today with Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The discussion during the meeting dealt with relations between the two countries.

Following the meeting, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah left Al-'Ayn for Dubayy to meet His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice president and rule of Dubai. The Bahraini prime minister is expected to leave Dubayy for home later today.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MEETS FRENCH MILITARY DELEGATION

JN181835Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1705 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 June--Staff Maj Gen 'Awwad al-Khalidi, chief of the general staff of the army, this morning received the French military delegation currently visiting the country. The meeting dealt with military relations between the two countries.

The French military delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday on a visit to the UAE that will last for several days. The delegation will hold talks with a number of state officials on relations between the two countries, especially in the military field.

YEMEN--PDRY

AFP: PDRY 'FIRMLY IN SOVIET CAMP'

NC181103Y Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 18 Jun 78 NC

[By Mouna Nabaa]

[Text] Beirut, June 18 (AFP)--The South Yemen Democratic Republic, which has been a political fence-sitter in its foreign policy, has now moved firmly into the Soviet camp, political analysts here claim today.

This move will almost certainly have severe repercussions throughout the region in view of the importance of the former British Aden territory as a communications point at the junction of the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf. The switch to a definite pro-Soviet policy within the ruling Marxist majority is a win for National Front Secretary General Abd al-Fattah Isma'il over President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, who favors a "balanced" policy based on good relations with the Gulf Arab oil states. But the change does not necessarily mean there will be a break with neighboring "friends".

Other Arab leaders, however, will not be very happy about the new situation. A few days ago Sultan Qabus of Oman told the Italian daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA that South Yemen had already become a Soviet base which was used by both Soviet and Cuban forces in the recent battle against Somalia.

One immediate consequence of South Yemen's political leanings has been a resumption of the conflict with the next door Sultanate of Oman after a 3-year break. The Yemenis have used the alleged presence of Iranian troops in Oman as justification for renewed guerrilla attacks.

This is the Dhofar guerrilla group which was quelled by a joint Oman, Iranian, Jordanian and Pakistani force in 1975. The Dhofar group admitted responsibility for the assassination at the beginning of the month of what they called "six British engineers".

According to the Lebanese daily AL-HAWADITH, the Soviets have completed a naval base on the south Yemeni island of Socatra, 500 kilometres (315 miles) off the coast of Aden, to make up for the loss of the Berbera base in Somalia. Sophisticated satellite tracking equipment has been moved there from Berbera to establish a maritime bridge between the USSR and Ethiopia's northern Eritrean Province, the paper said.

In May, the U.S. State Department estimated that between five to six hundred Cubans were in South Yemen, some civil advisers and other military experts.

The Cubans were said to be part of a 2,000-strong foreign group in the country, the rest being Soviet and East German military and police instructors.

Soviet influence in South Yemen worries other Arab states in the region and Saudi Arabia recently accused Moscow of trying to gain control of some Middle East oil wells as a precaution against their own wells drying up. The Sultanate of Oman has already established diplomatic relations with China and several other Gulf states are about to follow suit, encouraged, according to some reports, by the shah of Iran. A security pact between all states in the area is being worked out.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER PRAISES RECENT AS-SADAT STATEMENTS

JN161830Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister, left San'a' this afternoon for Riyadh on his way to Khartoum to take part in the meetings of the Arab Solidarity Committee chaired by Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the foreign minister said that during his stopover in Riyadh he will hold talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, on preparations for the next session of the Saudi-YAR joint coordination council which will be held in San'a'. They will also review aspects of the fraternal cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The foreign minister said that the Arab states which are taking part in the Arab Solidarity Committee are agreed on the need to call for an Arab meeting at the highest level. He added that President Numayri, during his tour of 15 Arab states, achieved tangible progress which calls for hope that our nation will pass the present test and that existing Arab differences will be put to an end.

The foreign minister announced that the YAR greatly appreciates President as-Sadat's recent statements which affirmed Egypt's determination not to activate the joint military and political committees with the Zionist enemy. We also appreciate the clear Egyptian stand which rejects a separate agreement with the Zionist enemy.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said he is carrying a letter from Brother President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghahshmi to his Brother President Numayri on the current Arab situation and relations between Sudan and the YAR.

AL-JAMASI ON U.S. VISIT, U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

NC192128Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 June--Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of the war and war production, has affirmed that President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative has left a deep mark on the American people and created a clear understanding of the Egyptian position on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In an interview broadcast by Egyptian Arab television this evening, General al-Jamasi said that he personally felt this U.S. appreciation of President as-Sadat's initiative and the Egyptian position when he met with the members of the U.S. Congress during his recent visit to Washington. General al-Jamasi explained that the U.S. appreciation of the Egyptian position, which was brought about by President as-Sadat's initiative, led to the U.S. Congress' decision to approve the sale of F-5 aircraft to Egypt. He said that the sale of U.S. aircraft to Egypt is a step that will be followed by others in the future.

Regarding his meeting with Brezezinski, the U.S. presidential adviser on national security, General al-Jamasi said that he discussed with Brezezinski the various views on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

General al-Jamasi added that his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Vance dealt with the Middle East problem, and the discussion was constructive. He said that his talks with Vance lasted a long time because the U.S. State Department is responsible for the policy on arms supplies to foreign countries. General al-Jamasi explained that he discussed with Vance the F-5 aircraft deal to Egypt and the implementation of the deal quickly. He said that the United States responded to Egypt's conditions regarding the deal.

Regarding relations between the United States and Israel, General al-Jamasi pointed out that Washington now takes into its consideration the security of Egypt and Arab security. He said that this U.S. position is considered a first step toward the achievement of a balance between Arab security and Israeli security, and this augurs well. In his television interview, General al-Jamasi pointed out that the U.S. aircraft will greatly increase the capability of the Egyptian Air Force. He said that Egypt has the men who can use the F-5 aircraft very well and achieve the best results with them. General al-Jamasi said that the first planes from this aircraft deal will arrive in Egypt this year. The rest will arrive later.

General al-Jamasi expressed his confidence that the cooperation between Egypt and the United States will achieve Egypt's ultimate aim: the establishment of just peace in the Middle East.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL MEETS U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC191538Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has met with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained to the U.S. ambassador that it is regrettable that the Begin government has concluded its long discussions only to end up with a position that reflects its continuing intransigence and its insistence on not responding to the sincere efforts which have been exerted by Egypt and supported by the United States since his excellency the president's historic initiative last November.

The foreign minister also made it clear to the U.S. ambassador that Egypt devotes its efforts to continuing its consultations and contacts with the U.S. Government and President Carter in order to find ways to surmount the obstacles which Begin has placed on the road to peace.

The radio correspondent has learned that the U.S. ambassador has not given the foreign minister the official Israeli reply, because he is waiting for consultations which the U.S. Government is now holding with the Israeli Government. The U.S. ambassador has stated that the Middle East situation was discussed. He said: Washington is in constant touch with the Egyptian and Israeli governments.

SAYYID MAR'I MEETS U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

NC2007447 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i has begun his discussions with U.S. Congressional leaders. He held a series of important meetings with the House majority and minority leaders. According to reports received from Washington, the Israeli reply received by the United States on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza sector was at the center of these discussions.

The House leaders told Sayyid Mar'i that they were disappointed by the Israeli reply and that they do not believe that it will boost the peace efforts in the Middle East. They also expressed their appreciation of President as-Sadat's initiative and Egypt's positive approach to the efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. The House leaders also welcomed Engineer Sayyid Mar'i's description of his visit to the United States as an important one that will give Congress the opportunity to exchange views on the continued movement of the peace process in the Middle East.

Sayyid Mar'i also met with former U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger. They reviewed the latest Middle East developments. Kissinger spoke of President as-Sadat's initiative and expressed great appreciation for President as-Sadat.

AMBASSADOR IN PORTUGAL CONDEMNS AS-SADAT

PA191739Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 19 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Lisbon, 19 June (AFP)--Egyptian Ambassador to Portugal Lt Gen Sa'd Muhammad al-Husayni ash-Shadhili publicly accused the government of President Anwar as-Sadat here today of being totalitarian, weakening the Egyptian Army and dividing the Arab world. Ash-Shadhili said in a communique to the press that the As-Sadat regime is a dictatorship hidden behind a democratic facade whose latest measures "are more harsh than any taken by Salazar (former Portuguese dictator) in his entire political career."

As-Sadat's policy strengthened the position of the Israelis, who are now more intransigent than ever, and weakened the Egyptian Army, which is the country's main political force, added the communique issued by the ambassador, who is known for his loyalty to former President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. According to the general, the firepower of the Egyptian Army has been reduced 60 percent from its 1973 level, while the Israeli army's firepower has increased 160 percent in the same period.

As-Sadat's policy accentuated the divisions in the Arab world and weakened Egypt's position in the Third World, especially in Africa, according to Ash-Shadhili, who in 1973 headed the Egyptian units which crossed the Suez Canal and invaded the Sinai, which was occupied by Israel.

Suspended, Recalled

NC192117Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The foreign minister has issued a decision suspending Ambassador Sa'd ash-Shadhili, Egypt's ambassador in Lisbon, for his grave violation of his duties and recalling him to Cairo immediately to face a disciplinary council in accordance with the diplomatic and consular law. The ambassador has been informed of this decision by cable.

CAIRO COMMENTATOR SCORES ISRAELI PROPOSALS

NC191523Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "More Vagueness Cast by the Recent Israeli Proposals on the Prospects for the Achievement of Peace"]

[Excerpts] In the wake of three long and concerted meetings held by Israel's cabinet under the chairmanship of Menahem Begin within the past 3 weeks, the cabinet issued a statement announcing its approval of the Begin plan for replying to the U.S. questions on the definition of Israel's position concerning the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Following the decision made by the Tel Aviv government yesterday on the replies it was requested to furnish, Moshe Dayan announced in a statement broadcast by the Israeli television network that the contents of the statement represent a clear and simple illustration of Israel's stance. It is certain that this statement is totally clear, but not in the sense Dayan meant. In fact, this statement completely exposes the policy of continuing to be intransigent, which Menahem Begin has pursued since he assumed the post of prime minister of Israel.

The issue, as Begin knows better than anyone and as all the Tel Aviv rulers know--whether they are in the government or in the opposition--is connected with the fundamental bases of insuring the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

Although these bases are just, although they have won the attribute of international legitimacy, and although they are supported by the broad bases in the Palestinian, Arab and international spheres, the Tel Aviv leaders have filled their ears with rubbish so as not to hear the voice of righteousness, justice and law concerning this question--and this question has been kept pending for a long time, despite all the definitive dangers involved in this trend.

Cairo has let no opportunity slip by without emphasizing the Palestinian character of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In this respect, Cairo has submitted proposals aimed at preserving the core and concept of this issue.

The recent Begin proposals, which have been endorsed by the Israeli Government, divest the chances for solving this issue of their most important components because these proposals repeatedly disregard and reject the basic requirements of the desired solution.

Perhaps Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan felt deep in his heart that these proposals were frail when he commented on them, saying that the contents of the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions might not satisfy Washington.

It is certain that Israel's reply in this concept, which is the offshoot of the activities of the Israeli leaders, cannot be accepted by the Palestinians, the Arabs and the international community.

The experts of Israeli diplomacy, the planners and the decision makers in Tel Aviv, have taken 3 full weeks to prepare this reply. True to the expectations of a great many observers, this reply has come as another image of Israel's previous stances and a new copy of what Begin has adamantly adhered to through his incessant opposition to the true concept of the peace which is acceptable and which is aspired for in the area.

The issue is not as Begin and his group are trying to portray and propagandize by saying that its solution lies in the establishment of an autonomous administrative government for the Palestinian Arabs in their occupied territories. Consequently, and in keeping with the above-mentioned Israeli concept, it is the future of the relations between the parties to the peace agreement which should be discussed, not the status of the area in the future. This is an erroneous interpretation with an enormous amount of play on words and with an attempt to evade the solid truth; that is, there is no peace without Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and there is no peace without Palestine.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM ATTACKS BEGIN AS WARMONGER

LD191730Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Jun 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "Why Should Begin Resign?"]

[Excerpts] Long ago we said that Begin should resign and that there is no hope for peace as long as he rules Israel. He believes in war and denies peace; he is the one who believes that money will flow into Israel as long as it is threatened and will stop when it is secure; and he is the one who considered President as-Sadat's peace initiative a "trick" and advised procrastination until the peace rocket loses its propelling power.

Therefore, if we are told today that Begin is thinking of resigning, then this is not surprising. The surprising thing would be for him to remain in office. Until today Begin has been unable to win a single state to his side. The whole world denounces his attitude and advises him--whether in a friendly or an unfriendly manner--to see reason and not to lose the peace opportunity that is almost lost.

Begin is an old lawyer and an old terrorist. He is not tired of defending the same case and reiterating the same pleas before every court even if he loses the case. He has also the violence, bloody character and love for attack found in a terrorist.

This is the image of a man who is fit to carry a dagger and not an olive branch. His character, personality, past and beliefs make him the last man to agree on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He is one of the champions of grand Israel. When he formed his cabinet he deliberately selected the majority of its members from among the extremist hawks. He obtained a majority in the Israeli elections on the basis of avenging for the October war and of rectifying the mistakes that led to this defeat. He is the originator of the policy of "retaining everything."

Therefore, if we are told that Begin will resign because he is sick, we must realize that he is politically sick or suffers as a result of nervous exhaustion from cabinet discussions, when he saw that half of the cabinet ministers oppose the intransigent policy that refuses solutions or compromises.

Menahem Begin will maneuver so that the Israeli Cabinet adopts an ambiguous and vague decision that will not solve the problem but rather postpone it, that will not end occupation but will give it another name, and that will not give the Palestinians a homeland but set up for them a prison or a detention camp.

The new crisis started when Begin was surprised by seeing that President Carter had not given up hope of resolving the Middle East problem as he thought he would, and that President as-Sadat's initiative did not die of old age as he hoped it would. Rather he has learned that Washington postponed talking about peace until the U.S. Senate approved the U.S. aircraft deal with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, which it did despite the gigantic efforts by the Zionist lobby to bring pressure on the Congress. Begin imagined that Washington would wipe away Israel's tears and seek to reassure it so as to regain its lost love for it. But what has happened is that Washington has asked for a clear and frank reply to the question: What is the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza sector? If Israel wants to grant them self-rule for 5 years, what will the situation be after that? Will they [Palestinians] have a right to self-determination and secession [from Israel] and how will such a referendum take place?

Begin wants to grant self-rule for 5 years, provided that it is a limited self-rule and does not involve ceding the territories to anybody. He insists that Israel should supervise the referendum. Part of the Israeli Cabinet supports the U.S. view that a free referendum under UN supervision should be held after 5 years of self-rule and that the Palestinians should choose between remaining with Israel or joining Jordan.

Some of the cabinet ministers, including Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, believe that the door of negotiations and maneuvering should remain open and that a noncommittal formula be adopted that would postpone taking a decision on the matter until after the expiration of the 5-year transistional period.

The Israeli Cabinet has realized that the situation is critical and that with every day that passes Israel becomes more isolated and loses the support of countries that once supported it, as well as the support of world opinion. The massive campaign which Zionism launched against the Arabs in the United States has been of no avail. On the contrary, the popularity of Israel has diminished and the Arab viewpoint has become so strongly projected in the Western world's press, radio and television that it has caused anxiety for Israel.

All the visits by Israeli Cabinet ministers and politicians to Western capitals to regain grounds last by Israel have failed.

The Peace Now Movement is gaining ground daily. The movement demands peace and refuses Begin's intransigence.

Begin has been alleging that time is on Israel's side and that as Israel gains time Egypt loses ground. But Israel was surprised by President as-Sadat's statement to the Second Army, in which he said that Egypt will fight if it fails to understand the spirit of the peace initiatve. Begin was astonished: Why should As-Sadat say that, since he was the man who said that the 1973 war will be the last Egyptian war against Israel?

Begin has ignored the fact that As-Sadat said that this would be the last Egyptian war if Israel evacuates the Arab territories it occupies and if it recognizes the rights of the Palestinian people. Begin should have noted all of As-Sadat's speech at the Knesset and not just one sentence, deleting the rest of the speech.

In the recent As-Sadat speech, Israel understood what it ought to understand: No peace with occupation, no peace so long as there is a single Israeli soldier in the occupied Arab territories, and no peace so long as the Palestinian people's rights are ignored.

An Israeli source said that such statements are hostile and do not serve the cause of peace. We say that the existence of Israeli soldiers in our territory is tantamount to thousands of hostile statements against us daily. Indeed, the presence of Begin as the head of the Israeli Government is in itself a continued hostile statement against the Arabs and peace.

We are not in a hurry for Begin to leave the Israeli prime ministership, for the Arabs have benefited much from his being at the head of the Tel Aviv government. He has enabled the world to see our magnanimity and his fanaticism, our understanding and his dogmatism, our humbleness and his arrogance, our open hearts and his closed heart, and our adherence to peace and his adherence to war and fighting.

Begin is the statue of hatred, rancor, malice and arrogance that some of the Israeli people have erected in the Middle East.

They are free to keep this statue or destroy it. It is useful for us and damaging to them; it serves us and harms them; it is the evidence of our love for peace; and it represents their fingerprints in the crime of war.

May God let Mr Begin recover.

AL-AKHBAR CRITICIZES TASS REPORT ON ECONOMY

NC190807Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 19 June--Under the headline "This Is Moscow's Logic," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR comments on the anger of the official Soviet news agency TASS with Egypt and its sympathy with Egypt's economy. According to the news agency, Egypt is subservient to the imperialist states, the oil-rich Arab states and international banks. The new evidence, according to TASS, is the outcome of the meetings of the international advisory consortium in Paris and the financial aid it granted to Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR says this is strange and ridiculous logic but not unusual from Moscow because it was shocked and disappointed by the results of the meetings of the international advisory consortium. It is not easy for the Moscow leaders to view the document issued by the consortium as a certification of the strength and soundness of the Egyptian economy, of the confidence in it, and of the economic cooperation with Egypt by 25 states and international organizations.

The paper notes that Egypt achieved this result after freeing itself from Soviet subservience and destroying the odious monopoly which the Soviet Union had imposed upon us until it destroyed us economically.

The paper adds that the Soviets are irritated with Egypt because it denounced and destroyed their monopoly and is no longer a victim of subservience. What further irritated the Soviets is the fact that Egypt achieved a great economic success, and its economic position became so strong that it won the confidence of 25 states and international organizations.

AL-AKHBAR points out that Egypt's declaration that its economy is open was a shock to Moscow. Egypt's success in dealing with all these states was another shock to Moscow. The document which the international consortium issued on Egypt's economic strength was a third shock. Therefore, Moscow found no way to ease its irritation but in this ridiculous logic and talk about the subservience of the Egyptian economy.

PLEDGE OF U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORTED

NC180937Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 18 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 June--In tomorrow's issue the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF reports that specific instructions were issued to the U.S. delegation which attended the meetings in the French capital of the International Advisory Consortium for backing the Egyptian economy. These instructions stipulated that the U.S. delegation should stress in the meetings that the United States will guarantee continued U.S. aid to Egypt for the next 5 years and not only until 1980, as had previously been announced.

The magazine adds that U.S. sources said the United States will provide $6.5 billion as loans and aid to Egypt until 1982, with a pledge to continue U.S. aid to Egypt beyond that date.

FRENCH MILITARY EXPERTS REPORTEDLY IN CAIRO

NC200834Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 20 June--The Kuwaiti newspaper Al-ANBA' reports today that the first group of French experts in the manufacture of military aircraft and missiles has arrived in Cairo to help in the production of Mirage military aircraft for the Arab Military Industries Organization [AMIO].

In a dispatch from Cairo, the newspaper says that these experts will work in an AMIO aircraft assembly plant near the Egyptian capital. More French experts will arrive in Cairo in accordance with the agreement signed between AMIO and the French Government last year.

The newspaper adds that AMIO, which is funded by Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt, has also sent technicians and engineers for training in French military factories and that the first group of them was sent to France 6 months ago. The newspaper also says that AMIO is expected to officially announce the beginning of its advanced military production in the middle of next year.

U.S. MILITARY TEAM REPORTEDLY TO VISIT EGYPT

NC180725Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0652 GMT 18 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 June--In its issue which will be published on Monday, the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF reports that a U.S. military delegation will pay a long visit to Egypt, during which it will inspect some of the Egyptian armed forces units and watch field training. The magazine says that this visit will take place as a result of the visit which General 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, the deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, paid to the United States and which ended Saturday.

The magazine adds that it has become known that Egypt will begin producing some military vehicles, such as heavy trucks and jeeps, before the end of this year. This will take place as a result of agreements concluded between the Arab Military Industries Organization and some big U.S. car manufacturing companies.

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON OPEC CONFERENCE

JN200846Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad 20 June--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, has described the outcome of the OPEC ministerial meeting which ended in Geneva yesterday as a positive step in the service of the OPEC members.

In a statement upon his return to Baghdad last night, 'Abd al-Karim said that the Iraqi delegation had hoped that the decisions of the meeting would be more ambitious [words indistinct]. He added: Our delegation exerted earnest efforts to bring about the meeting and to achieve solidarity among the conferees regarding several matters and problems, in the service of the common interests of the member states and their peoples, as well as those of the developing countries.

The Iraqi oil minister added that the conferees had discussed the main problems facing the organization, including the artificial oil surplus resulting from the measures being adopted by the International Energy Agency and the general situation of the world oil market. In this regard, the conferees discussed the drop of real oil prices due to the deterioration of the dollar's value and currency fluctuations. All these factors have caused difficulties for the OPEC peoples and continue to obstruct these people's capabilities of achieving economic development and oil industries which would service their legitimate interests.

The minister pointed out that the conference discussed these problems, taking into consideration that, although these problems are not new, they are unique and require unique and well-coordinated solutions.

BA'TH PARTY LEADER HADDAD LEAVES FOR BELGRADE

JN171123Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 June--The delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command headed by Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party National Command member, left for Belgrade this morning in response to an invitation from the 11th conference of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] which will begin there the day after tomorrow, Monday, and will last for several days.

In a statement to INA, Haddad said that this visit is an indication of the strong and positive relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the LCY, their common struggle, and the developing relations at the cultural and party levels. Participating in the conference are delegations from world progressive parties.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES 2-DAY VISIT

JN160756Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 16 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 June--PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti' today concluded his 2-day visit to Iraq during which he conveyed a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Salim Rubayyi' Ali, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, dealing with the current situation in the Arab region.

In a statement before his departure, the Yemeni official said that his talks with the Iraqi officials dealt with relations between the two countries and the issues of the Arab nation. He described his talks as fruitful and useful.

CENTRAL AFRICAN MINISTER LEAVES FOLLOWING TALKS

JN160818Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 June--Rigobert Yombo, minister of energy, mines and geology in the Central African Empire, left Baghdad this morning after participating in the economic talks between Iraq and the Central African Empire. He was seen off at Baghdad airport by Fawzi 'Abdallah, the minister of finance, and by the ambassador of the Central African Empire in Baghdad.

PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BANK OF CUBA ARRIVES

JN171947Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 June--The president of the National Bank of Cuba, Raul Leon Torras, arrived here this evening. He is leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. Torras will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials for the purpose of increasing economic and financial cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meets Iraqi Finance Minister

JN181642Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Iraqi Finance Minister Dr Fawzi 'Abdallah met today with Raul Leon Torras, president of the National Bank of Cuba, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting the two parties discussed bilateral relations in the areas of trade, finance and banking and the means to develop these relations. They also discussed the possibility of Cuban institutions participating in the implementation of development projects in Iraq.

TURKISH TRANSPORTATION MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN171727Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 June--Turkish Transportation Minister Gunes Ongut arrived here this evening leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq of several days. The delegation will hold talks with officials in the Iraqi Transportation Ministry for the purpose of developing cooperation between Iraq and Turkey in the field of transportation.

SPANISH MONARCH TO VISIT IRAQ 22 JUNE

JN190954Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 June--Spanish Monarch Juan Carlos is due in Baghdad next Thursday on an official visit of several days to Iraq at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

Announcing this today, the Presidential Office said that the visit comes as a consolidation of the ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Spain.

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON ISRAELI REPLY TO U.S.

JN191141Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Minister of Information 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has commented on the Israeli reply to U.S. questions concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by saying: This Israeli reply indicates that Menahem Begin's government is insisting on carrying on with the policy of expansion and annexation of the rest of the Palestinian territories.

In a statement to the ASSOCIATED PRESS, the minister said that the Israeli Government has chosen--by this determination--to block the way to peace and embarrass all who desire and are able to continue the peace efforts.

Amman Radio Commentary

JN191959Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Israel supposedly answered U.S. questions yesterday with a formula which does not depart from the framework of the peace plan which Menahem Begin presented earlier this year to Egypt and the United States. Although we have not read the contents of that formula, world news agencies and responsible Israeli sources have given a general idea of its provisions, thus making it possible for us to predict the results of such a reply to U.S. questions.

The State Department recently made it clear that it would not accept any ambiguous or elastic formula from the Begin government in reply to U.S. questions. It seems the Israeli Government has taken the American warning seriously and has given a clear reply to the U.S. question. True, Israel played with the wording, but the purport of the reply is an affirmation of the Begin plan to entrench Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza after the 5-year period of self-rule.

In its reply, Israel tried to play with the wording when it said that the objective of the negotiations between the sides after the provisional self-rule period must be achieved with the participation of the elected representatives of the West Bank and Gaza. Thus, Israel has completely avoided answering a number of basic issues raised in the U.S. questions such as sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza and Palestinian rights, especially their right to determine their own destiny on their land. It has also avoided the questions of the refugees.

Despite the attempts by some members of the Israeli Government, including Moshe Dayan, to persuade Begin not to reply with this formula, which will not convince the United States, and to present instead an elastic formula through which it would be possible to deceive the United States and make it agree to the resumption of the negotiations and thus gain time, Begin stuck to his formula which shows that Israel insists on its expansionist policy by annexing the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Israeli reply to the U.S. questions does not constitute the right basis for the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, just as the Begin plan was not the right basis for reaching a settlement in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Israeli reply shows how determined Israel is to hold on to the occupied Palestinian territory from the river to the sea and how persistent it is about reaching peace agreements with the Arabs on the basis of the status quo, which is being imposed by force of arms and the logic of occupation.

Ambiguous replies and stands will not help the states in the area achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. By its intransigence, Israel is closing all the doors to peace and is embarrassing those who want to, and can, continue the peace efforts, especially the United States.

In short, Israel which is the only country in the world to be established on the basis of the policy of the status quo, is trying to gain time to build the new status quo which will entrench its occupation of Arab territory through expanded settlement of that territory.

DECISION TO TRANSFER UNRWA HQ TO VIENNA REJECTED

JN161105Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jun 78 p 12 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Government has rejected the decision of the UNRWA commissioner general to move the agency's headquarters from Beirut to Vienna, especially since Jordan has responded positively to UNRWA's requirements for a suitable location and facilities in Amman.

AR-RA'Y has learned that the Jordanian Ministry of Reconstruction and Development has contacted the competent departments in the Arab states hosting Arab refugees regarding its decision to reject the UNRWA decision to move the headquarters to Vienna away from the area of operation of the agency which is supposed to provide relief and work to Palestinian refugees.

AR-RA'Y has also learned that Jordan intends to work with the representatives of the host countries in raising this subject during the meetings of the 21st Session of the Committee of Host Countries which will be held in Amman on 22 July with the participation of Arab League representatives. Jordan also intends to raise the subject of the agency's financial status.

It has been learned that John Tanner, UNRWA's Amman branch chief, has left for Beirut for consultations with Mr Thomas McElhiney, commissioner general, on a number of issues related to UNRWA's status and the Arab reaction to the decision to transfer the headquarters to Vienna.

The representatives of the host countries will also stress the need for UNRWA employees to obtain their wages from UN allocations on a permanent basis instead of making these wages dependent on donations from various countries. This would reduce UNRWA's expenditures which includes paying the wages of its 16,000 employees, by 50 percent. This would also facilitate and consolidate other services rendered to the refugees for whom the United Nations is responsible.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON KHARTOUM SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

JN170728Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Factors That Increase Arab Solidarity," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes editorially: According to the agenda, the Arab Solidarity Committee, at its meeting in Khartoum today, will discuss the results of the two tours which Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri made to restore solidarity among Arag countries. The conference will also discuss Jordanian proposals on achieving Arab solidarity which Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim will submit.

This meeting of the Arab Solidarity Committee is very important because it will crystalize future steps that must be taken to restore the desired solidarity and to prepare the groundwork for convening the proposed Arab summit conference.

The paper says: We must recall that tangible factors in the Arab area constitute a strong incentive to speed up the achievement of Arab solidarity. These factors can be summed up as follows:

1. President as-Sadat's definite assertions about not relinquishing 1 inch of the occupied land, and about rejecting Begin's plan for self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, insisting that there will be no Israeli military or civilian presence in the Sinai or Sharm ash-Shaykh and insisting that there will be no unilateral settlement with Israel. It is obvious that the substance of this stand does not differ from any other Arab stand.

2. The strong possibility of not renewing the second disengagement of forces agreement in the Sinai in October. Cairo hinted at this possibility several weeks ago. It goes without saying that if this happens, the area will be placed in a situation requiring delicate and complicated calculations.

3. The Israeli impasse which the Begin government is facing due to the U.S. questions, and what might result from this impasse, especially if we notice that the Israeli plan to change the features of the occupied land and to expand in it is continuing as planned without delay.

AD-DUSTUR says: In view of these various factors, each of which has Israeli intransigence as a common denominator, it is high time that the Arabs adopt a unified strategy to face the future events in such a way that their confrontation will not be a temporary reaction to what they may be subjected to. This confrontation must be in line with the desired Arab strategy which will enable Arabs to hold the reins and participate in shaping events commensurate with their resources and plans.

Concluding its editorial, AD-DUSTUR says: It is taken for granted that the Arab Solidarity Committee is the body qualified to lay down the foundations for the desired solidarity. This solidarity is indispensible if the Arabs want to have a concrete and unified strategy to maintain their existence, safeguard their future and regain their rights. We hope that all Arab parties will not hesitate to help the committee achieve success for its pan-Arab task.

BADRAN ADDRESSES CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC POLICY

JN1914111Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has asserted that it is the conviction of Jordan's leadership that any government in power must aim at insuring the prosperity and well-being of its citizens and at surrounding these citizens with an atmosphere of security and stability so they can produce and build.

Delivering the government's domestic policy statement before the National Consultative Council today, the prime minister said: The Jordanian man is the valuable capital of our country and the means of its development, just as he is the reason for this development.

Badran added: In realization of these convictions, the government has devoted its efforts right from the beginning to tackling economic, social and humanitarian problems and to fighting the high cost of living. The government has built major establishments to insure essential commodities for that section of the population which was directly hit by the sudden rise in the cost of living.

The prime minister said that the government has exerted continuous efforts to stimulate the Jordanian economy and to increase trade with various Arab and other countries. The prime minister added that since the end of 1977, the Jordanian economy has been more promising than it was in the past because the government's efforts have succeeded in stimulating and promoting it in a more tangible and satisfactory manner.

The prime minister spoke about the many projects carried out this year under the 5-year plan. He said: Local production has registered tangible growth amounting to 12 percent annually through the implementation of a number of projects in the Jordanian Valley, as well as the potash and chemical fertilizer projects. Together with other projects, electrical power has been increased and electricity brought to the countryside.

Badran said that the government's efforts go beyond encouraging industry and investment, insuring supplies, backing credit institutions and working for economic integration, the most important manifestation of which is the current coordination with Syria.

Speaking about public liberties, the prime minister said: We must remember the social, population, economic and military status of Jordan and the factors affecting this status. We should recall that under all circumstances Jordan has been concerned about maintaining the legitimacy and spirit of the constitution despite the events witnessed in the region, events which in some cases have shaken the constitutional institutions in certain countries. Although these anomalous circumstances have themselves on us, their effect on the citizentry has been very limited. Thus, Jordanian citizens continue to live under conditions of security and stability. The prime minister said that the government considers public liberties to mean that the citizens are the main partner in guiding the homeland's progress, and that it is their right and duty to be concerned with the homeland's domestic and national issues and to express their opinion on them as long as this opinion stems from their conscience, aims at serving the interests of the homeland and is within legitimate boundaries.

The prime minister asserted that the principle of consultation has become a Jordanian legacy and a distinct slogan for this country. Consultation is based on two strong pillars--freedom and responsibility.

Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the National Consultative Council, opened the session which was attended by all members and some of the ministers. At the request of some council members, the ministers of communications, health and public works spoke about the projects implemented by their ministries in 1977 and during the first half of this year.

INTERIOR MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON SECURITY PLAN

NC161455Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman at 1200 today. The meeting, in which the security situation was reviewed, lasted until 1310. At the end of the meeting Minister Salman was asked whether the state is preparing any plan to tackle the security situation. He replied: It is the state's job to have plans. Naturally, there are plans being prepared, studied and adapted to the circumstances. As you recall, the heads of security in the country were charged with studying the security situation and altering the existing plans in light of developments. This is not a policy which has been recently decided on, but is a duty of the security authorities.

Minister Salman appealed for every effort to be made to save the country, adding: In the long run, the country is the most important thing. The matter does not concern the authorities alone, nor any party. We hope all other considerations will be put aside in order to save Lebanon.

Implementation Begins 19 June

NC191117Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 19 June--The implementation of the security plan which the Lebanese Government approved last week for all parts of Lebanese territory begins today.

Lebanese Minister of Interior Dr Salah Salman has stated that the plan provides that the security forces, supported by army units, will be deployed throughout Lebanon. He added that the plan includes maintaining security, relieving citizens' anxiety, eliminating armed elements and arresting any person carrying arms.

The Lebanese Government adopted this plan following the bloody clashes in northern Lebanon in which 33 supporters of former President Sulayman Franjiyah were killed.

The implementation of the security plan comes at a time when tension and anxiety are increasing in northern Lebanon.

Robert Franjiyah, brother of former Deputy Tony Franjiyah, killed in the armed assault on Ihdin last Tuesday, said in a statement published today that Tony Franjiyah was the only barrier against partition, keeping Lebanon from becoming a victim of parties. He added that the assassination of his brother was part of a general plan to partition Lebanon.

He said that the conflict between his father, former President Sulayman Franjiyah, and the Lebanese Front was due to the lack of implementation of the resolutions which the front adopted at several meetings.

According to reports from northern Lebanon, churches in the area conducted a strong campaign against the Phalangist Party led by Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil on Sunday in response to Franjiyah's appeal urging members of the Phalangist Party to hand over their arms by the end of this month at the latest. These reports indicate that dozens of youths went to the churches and announced their collective withdrawal from the Phalangist Party.

Political circles were surprised by the visit of Camille Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party and chairman of the Lebanese Front, to Zgharta yesterday to convey his condolences to Franjiyah and believe the visit was a clear renunciation of the Phalangist Party assault on Ihdin. These circles anticipate that the nature of the conflict between the Phalangist and Liberal parties will become clearer following Sham'un's visit and the armed clashes which took place between the two parties in which several persons were killed.

These circles also view the statement made by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, in reply to charges that the government failed to maintain law and order, as directed against the Phalangist and Liberal parties. The circles said that Dr al-Huss' reference to those accusing the government of shortcomings, as having been responsible for the events, was directed against the Phalangists in particular.

PHALANGISTS QUIT PARTY FOLLOWING FRANJIYAH'S THREATS

JN190853Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut, 19 June--Hundreds of members of the rightist Phalangist Party have withdrawn from the party in the wake of the threats of Sulayman Franjiyah to retaliate for the assassination of his son, Tony, and another 33 persons in Ihdin last Tuesday.

Franjiyah has threatened revenge against all the Phalangist party members who fail to lay down their arms and declare their withdrawal from the party before the end of this month.

The Phalangist War Council will hold an emergency meeting today to discuss what has been described by Phalangist sources as the next security plan.

The Phalangist information media today strongly criticized Franjiyah's appeal as well as the statements which were made yesterday by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in reply to the Phalangist's campaign against the government.

Observers believe that the Phalangist Party, by its anti-government campaign, aims at holding the government responsible for the deterioration of the security situation. It is worth mentioning that the Phalangist Party was the originator of the so-called "self-security" call--which was a direct cause of the bloody events in the north.

PHALANGIST POLITICAL BUREAU HOLDS MEETING

NC191944Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese Phalangist Party Political Bureau held a meeting this evening under Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil. The bureau discussed the situation in northern Lebanon in the light of recent developments.

The Political Bureau then held an extraordinary meeting attended by the party leaders in the northern regions during which the conferees evaluated the situation in the northern province and ways to strengthen party relations with the political leaders and the people in the north.

JUNBLATT REFUSES TO CONDUCT DIALOG WITH PHALANGISTS

JN200853Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 June--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Socialist Progressive Party, has said that his party cannot participate in a national unity government which includes representatives of the Phalangist Party.

In a statement issued here today, Junblatt said there was no possibility of conducting a dialog with the Phalangist Party. Junblatt asserted that this is a principled stand.

Speaking about his official visit to Britain, Junblatt said that he warned the officials there of the dangers of arming the Lebanese Army before achieving an even-handed political solution.

PRESIDENT SARKIS AFFIRMS ARMY WILL MOVE SOUTHWARD

NC191635Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 19 June--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis today informed the members of the parliamentary committee belonging to the Parliamentary National Bloc that Lebanese Army forces will proceed to the southern border areas once UNIFIL is in control of those areas.

The Lebanese president received the committee members today. When they stressed the need to send the army to the south, the Lebanese president replied that several contacts are underway concerning UNIFIL's control of the border strip.

Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received the parliamentary committee later in the day. He affirmed to the committee members that the military units now present in the south under the command of Maj Sa'd Haddad have stayed in their barracks as ordered by the Army Command.

The prime minister also affirmed that Haddad and his assistant, Maj Sami Shidyaq, will soon be brought to Beirut and that necessary measures will be taken concerning them.

He said that the government has asked UNIFIL to take control of all the border areas.

Reports repeated over the past few days indicated that the rightist militias had occupied the strip adjacent to the Lebanese-Israeli border, a strip which had been under the control of Major Haddad's forces and which extends from Mays al-Jabal in the east and up to Bint Jubayl and An-Naqurah in the west.

The MENA Beirut correspondent has learned that the UNIFIL command in southern Lebanon is now exerting efforts to take over these areas from the militias peacefully and to avoid any clash with these militias.

Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, general coordinator of the [UN] emergency forces in the Middle East, is expected to arrive in Beirut within 48 hours to convey to the Lebanese Government the results of his recent contacts with Israeli officials. However, UN sources in Beirut have not confirmed a specific date for the arrival of Siilasvuo in the Lebanese capital.

LEBANESE ARMY ISSUES STATEMENT ON GUNBOAT CLASH

NC191615Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] The 5th Branch of the Army Command has issued the following statement:

On 17 June 1978 the Army Command received reports that the ship Dimitria I, carrying weapons and ammunition as well as some smuggled goods, had sailed from the port of Limassol heading for As-Sarafand in southern Lebanon.

On 18 June 1978, after monitoring the ship's course, two patrol boats belonging to the Lebanese Navy intercepted the aforementioned ship and managed to seize it.

However, while it was being escorted to the naval base in Juniyah, several Israeli enemy vessels gave chase to the Lebanese patrol boats and the detained ship. Fire was exchanged using various weapons for more than 1 hour, following which the Israeli vessels succeeded in leading the detained ship outside Lebanese territorial waters. This occurred after one of the Lebanese patrol boats sustained some damage which prevented it from continuing on its mission.

There were no casualties in the ranks of the Lebanese Navy. Enemy losses are unknown.

LEBANESE COMMENT ON ISRAELI REPLY REPORTED

NC191125Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Jun 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 19 June--Lebanese political circles today showed interest in the Israeli reply to the U.S. questions regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These circles described the Israeli answers as ambiguous and inadequate.

They noted the lengthy ministerial argument within the Begin government on the issue of answering the U.S. questions and said that the answers were inspired by Menahem Begin's plan, and that their suitability as a basis for the resumption of the peace negotiations is questionable.

The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR today quotes Lebanese Foreign Ministry circles as saying that if the Israeli answers were regarded as positive and suitable as a basis for dialog between all the parties concerned, they would open the closed doors for comprehensive Arab-Israeli negotiations.

AN-NAHAR says that Lebanese Foreign Ministry circles expected the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, to visit a number of states in the area, since the Israeli answers are not only concerned with the future of the West Bank and the Gaza strip but also with a comprehensive peace in the whole area.

The paper expects Atherton to pave the way for a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance if Atherton returns to Washington with positive results suitable as a basis for a new U.S. initiative.

The paper quotes well-informed sources as saying that the U.S. Government held direct and indirect contacts with a number of senior Arab officials and heard various views and proposals which are suitable as a basis for a new peace initiative, either a purely American or a U.S.-Soviet initiative.

AL-BA'TH HAILS EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S ANTI-AS-SADAT STAND

JN200650Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In the column "With Events," and under the headling "Ash-Shadhili and the Natural Position in Confronting the As-Sadat Course," the newspaper AL-BA'TH today says: In his capacity as an Egyptian citizen before anything else, and as a brilliant soldier and his country's ambassador to Portugal, Lieutanent General Ash-Shadhili explained in a categorical way the extent of the As-Sadat regime's deviation from Egypt's domestic and foreign policy and its domestic and pan-Arab commitments. He likened As-Sadat's regime to the dictatorial regimes of Salazar and Franco. This has explained fully the nature of this regime and exposed it before the world public. Ash-Shadhili could not find any explanation for As-Sadat's repressive 6 June laws, except to agree with the majority of the Egyptian nationalist and progressive forces that these are anti-democratic laws harming Egypt's history and its national struggle.

AL-BA'TH adds: As for the As-Sadat capitulationist initiative, Ash-Shadhili gave a bleak picture of its results on the political and military levels when ne said that it represented a dangerous situation. Ash-Shadhili spoke like a true Egyptian military officer when he described the shameful situation Egypt has reached through the continued capitulationist and isolationist trend in Egypt; he made the final stroke in exposing this trend.

Ash-Shadhili released his statement at the Egyptian Embassy in Lisbon and was not concerned about the campaign that will be waged against him by the malicious news media of As-Sadat's regime. He is a brilliant soldier whose image cannot be marred by the campaigns of these media--the media which have gone out of their way to slander 'Abd an-Nasir and Egypt's patriotic revolution. Ash-Shadhili found that his national duty dictated that he take such a stand, particularly since all As-Sadat's cards have been exposed and particularly since As-Sadat's regime is finding itself diametrically opposed to the Egyptian masses. As a patriotic Egyptian citizen, a brilliant soldier and one of Egypt's genuine heroes, Ash-Shadhili found his position and placed his future alongside the Egyptian masses. He brought back to our memory his remarkable, heroic achievements during the October 1973 War.

DER SPIEGEL: KHADDAM ASSESSES MIDEAST SITUATION

DW191130Y Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Jun 78 pp 125-126 DW

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Khaddam--date and place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, you compared As-Sadat's peace initiative with the mission of Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, in 1941 and the collaboration of French Marshal Petain with the Nazis. Why?

Khaddam: The comparison is justified by the fact that the objective of the action was not achieved in all three cases. As-Sadat's initiative separated us farther from peace instead of bringing us closer to it. As-Sadat's visit made other efforts aimed at a solution fail, such as, for instance, efforts made within the UN framework. As-Sadat has divided the Arab world. He lifted Israel's isolation.

SPIEGEL: But As-Sadat's peace gesture achieved sympathy for the Arabs in the West, sympathy they never had before.

Khaddam: The whole world wants peace. It hoped that As-Sadat would bring peace. This is why many papers and periodicals welcomed his initiative. But As-Sadat became just a television star. Those who supported his policy in the beginning are now asking: "What did it actually achieve?"

SPIEGEL: After all, As-Sadat's policy divided the people in Israel and the Jews in the world into two groups. They are no longer unified in backing the Jerusalem government.

Khaddam: We know the Israelis very well. The government majority in the Knesset is supporting Begin's peace plan, that is Israel's answer to As-Sadat's initiative. According to this plan the Israeli troops will not withdraw from the occupied territories and Israel will not recognize the PLO; opposition leader Peres is saying the same as the government.

SPIEGEL: But an outer parliamentarian opposition was created. Israeli soldiers are demanding: "Peace Now."

Khaddam: When we ask these soldiers what they consider as peace, we will find no difference between their opinions and those of their political leaders.

SPIEGEL: What should As-Sadat do now?

Khaddam: Three days prior to his departure for Jerusalem he visited President Al-Asad in Damascus. He urged him: "You will achieve nothing in Jerusalem. You will hurt the pride of the Arabs. The whole Arab world will be against you." As-Sadat said: "I will take that risk; if I fail I will resign." In such a case he wanted to authorize his deputy, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, to discuss new steps with the Syrian leadership. Later on he repeated that statement to the Egyptian Parliament.

SPIEGEL: So As-Sadat should keep his word and resign?

Khaddam: It is customary throughout the entire world for political leaders to bear the consequences of their mistakes; your minister of the interior, Maihofer, resigned because his party lost two Landtag elections. Nikita Khrushchev had to go because his agricultural policy was a failure. Even Churchill had to resign while a victor because his people wanted to have a different leadership in peace than it had in war. But As-Sadat decided to carry on.

SPIEGEL: So you consider it impossible for Egypt and Syria to reconcile?

Khaddam: Only if As-Sadat will work again hand in hand with all Arabs. He must basically change his policy because the Mideast conflict is not a conflict between Egypt and Israel but between all the Arabs and Israel.

SPIEGEL: Does Syria see a possibility, under certain conditions, to live in peace with Israel? Syria agreed to UN Resolution Number 242 that implies the existence of Israel.

Khaddam: Syria has the firm will to establish just and lasting peace in our region, the prerequisite being for Israel to withdraw from all territories occupied in 1967 and for the rights of the Palestinians to be reestablished. You cannot expect to have peace in the Mideast as long as the Palestinian people remain expelled. They need their own state on their own territory.

SPIEGEL: Must Israel disappear so that the Palestinians will get their state?

Khaddam: Read the statement of Yasir 'Arafat. He never demanded that the Jews be thrown into the sea. The Palestinians demand an implementation of the UN resolutions.

SPIEGEL: Syria supports the liberation movement in Eritrea. Syria's most important ally, the Soviet Union, has been helping the military regime in Ethiopia lately in its fight against the Eritreans. Isn't that a contradiction?

Khaddam: Syria and the USSR are friends. It means that one state will not interfere in the affairs of the other. It does not mean, though, that agreement must prevail in all cases and on every detail.

SPIEGEL: Your president once termed the Red Sea an Arab sea. Can that be the case if the Russians and Cubans have gained a foothold in the Horn of Africa?

Khaddam: The Red Sea must be open for all. The Arabs must rule over the coasts only. No foreign force is supposed to have military bases on the Red Sea or the Mediterranean. All foreigners ought to withdraw.

SPIEGEL: The Cubans too?

Khaddam: The Cubans have no navy.

SPIEGEL: But they are in Africa.

Khaddam: The Africans must handle that problem; they must make decisions that will serve their national interests.

SPIEGEL: Since the 1973 October war, Cuban military advisors have been at the Golan front. What experience did you have?

Khaddam: We have no Cuban advisers, but a small Cuban unit was with us. We welcomed it in a very friendly way at that time because it had come to help us against the Israeli aggressor. Had the Federal Republic sent us such a unit, we would have welcomed it in an equally friendly way.

INA: SYRIAN REGIME DEPORTS YEMENI STUDENTS

JN181627Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1223 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 18 June--The authorities of the Syrian regime have deported a number of Yemeni students who study at Syrian universities.

Several of the students said that the intelligence service of the Syrian regime has prevented them from continuing their studies and used immoral practices against them to force them to give up their studies. They have done this because the students have denounced the stands of the Syrian regime toward crucial Arab issues.

BA'TH DELEGATION TO ATTEND YUGOSLAV PARTY CONGRESS

JN181318Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jun 78 JN

[Text] A delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, assistant regional secretary, and including Comrade Fadil al-Ansari, National Command member, and Comrade 'Abd al-Ghani Ibrahim, Regional Command member, will leave Damascus tomorrow, Monday, to attend the 11th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED ON EUROPE ONE RADIO PROGRAM

LD200252Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Interview granted by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress of Libya, to the "Press Club" of Radio Europe Number One; questions in French translated into Arabic; no date given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gerard Carreyrou of Radio Europe Number One] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, last Thursday [as heard] at his press conference, the French president said that detente must be global and must not be accompanied by attempts to change the world's equilibrium, for example, by armed troops crossing borders.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What detente?

[Carreyrou] International detente, especially between East and West.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I do not see that there is detente in (?international) policy, unless you mean detente at the expense of the peoples of the Third World and of the small nations which are struggling to live in freedom. If the big powers live with each other without fighting and war and tension are transferred to the Third World, then I would not consider this to be just.

[Unidentified questioner] Colonel, a few months ago there was by mutual agreement a cease-fire arranged in Chad which would allow for the establishment of internal peace. But this peace was not attained and the fighting continues. I would like to ask you two questions. First, does Libya supply arms to the fighters in northern Chad? Second, do you believe that a political solution can be reached in the coming weeks?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I believe in a political solution, and I believe that the efforts being made by Libya and France [words indistinct] can lead to positive results in Chad. Our aim is to see an end to the hostilities. Even if there is a conflict, it is inevitable that [words indistinct] should be a political conflict. With regard to this solution, nobody can [words indistinct] in the time when this takes place. As for supplying FROLINAT [Chad National Liberation Front] with arms, if Libya had done so FROLINAT would have been able to occupy Ndjamena [words indistinct]. The fact that they have not reached Ndjamena indicates that they are fighting with old [words indistinct] arms. It is inevitable, however, that some assistance will be given by other countries to this front whose struggle has been going on for a quarter of a century. This movement is an old movement. It is not a rebellion in the north, as France puts it, but a movement of the people of Chad--the majority of the people of Chad, FROLINAT--to see that the rule is in the hands of the majority [words indistinct]. This made the government of President Malloum recognize FROLINAT at the Benghazi conference.

[Unidentified questioner] Colonel, you have always been opposed to interference by the superpowers in Africa. You have denounced the action of the United States. Must one not also (?denounce) Soviet penetration, which is also against the idea of Africa for the Africans?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am against any interference in Africa, but each and every independent state in Africa and elsewhere has the right to request help from others. It is the right of each and every independent state in the world to conclude an alliance with another state. So far, I have not seen an outside aggression against an African state. What is taking place now is interference by foreign armies, particularly in Chad and Shaba, to suppress popular movements. I think it is very strange to see major powers, which have the right to veto in the Security Council, responding to such requests. The African governments which are facing internal popular revolutions have no right--in my opinion--to combat these movements by these means. Each government facing a revolution will inevitably resist it. Those rulers who find themselves and their people involved in fighting such a revolution should ask for help. But I think it is shameful to see such governments asking for external assistance against their own people. They should abandon their authority and give it to the people instead of getting help from foreign troops. Stranger than that is to see major powers responding to such requests. This is a very dangerous turn of events--to see foreign troops entering on the side of a government against the latter's own people. We can also regard what is taking place in Shaba as an aggression against Zaire, (?but not) by the Katangans. who belong to Katanga. Nobody has the right to fight them except President Mobutu, who has the right to adopt any attitude he deems fit. The same can be said about Chad and Western Sahara. In fact, the issue concerning Western Sahara is the opposite--there is an attempt to annex it to Mauritania and Morocco. [Beginning of sentence indistinct] which were sent by France to Morocco and Mauritania, for example, were not subjected to aggression but [words indistinct]

[Unidentified questioner] Colonel, you have been making some observations about the situation in Western Sahara, [words indistinct- you recently received a member of the Government of Mauritania [words indistinct]. What do you see as the solution of the Saharan problem when the situation can be seen in various different lights as far as the Saharans and the (?Arab peoples) are concerned.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I did not receive [word indistinct] but recently received President Mokhtar Ould Daddah. I am still a friend of President Ould Daddah; we still give assistance to the fraternal Mauritanian people. But I disagree totally with President Mokhtar Ould Daddah--my dear friend--with regard to his annexation of part of the Sahara by an agreement with Morocco. I regard President Mokhtar Ould Daddah as a respected personality; he is wise. But I regard this decision as lacking in wisdom. My concern for Mauritania makes me advise him repeatedly to free himself from this dilemma. I am sure that Mauritania will be the loser in this situation.

[Pascal [name indistinct] of LE MATIN] What kind of support are you giving to POLISARIO? Is it not true that while recognizing the right of this front to self-determination, you refuse, for the moment, to recognize the Government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In 1972 we founded the POLISARIO Front. We armed it and we made it possible for POLISARIO to drive Spanish colonialism out of the Sahara. We believe that our pan-Arab duty ended with the liberation of the Sahara. We believe that now the problem is an inter-Arab one, an inter-Arab fight, and we are against this fratricidal war. We want the will of the Saharan people to be respected, because they are now being treated like a flock of sheep by Morocco and Mauritania. The fight continues to this day, and the fact is that the Saharans are neither Mauritanians nor Moroccans. I find it strange to see a state like France, which founded its republic and revolution on the principle of equality and freedom, becoming involved in this problem, the problem of subduing a people and having Mauritania and Morocco annex their country by force.

[Victor Liscia of LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS] Colonel, you have analyzed the situation in Africa exhaustively and in detail. President Giscard d'Estaing, in a press conference, made an analysis totally opposed to yours. Libya and France have enjoyed excellent relations these last few years, but these relations are now encountering difficulties owing to these problems in Africa. What do you think of this situation, and how, in your opinion, will it be possible for the two countries to normalize their relations?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am convinced that (?present) French policies in Africa will lead to the destruction of French interests in Africa, both traditional, moral interests and material interests. I consider the assessments of President Giscard d'Estaing to be erroneous, and I agree with him only with regard to the last paragraph [of his statement at the press conference] which said that joint French-Libyan efforts could restore peace in Chad. As for the claim of the right to defend one's citizens abroad, this is a very grave precedent in international relations. As a matter of fact, a fifth of the Libyan population is now living in wartorn areas of Chad. Algeria has more than 1 million citizens living in France who are in danger of assassination all the time. So all states have citizens living in other countries. To protect such expatriates with armed force and intervention by their own state is a very grave phenomenon. States might be tempted to expel citizens of other states [words indistinct], to close their embassies abroad and withdraw their diplomats. This is extremely dangerous logic.

[Jean Pierre Boulin of Radio Europe Number One] Colonel, you have just broached the French-Libyan disagreement vis-a-vis Africa. In a quest for a way leading to a French-Libyan entente, to a reconciliation, are you prepared, for example, to meet with President Giscard d'Estaing?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I do not mind at all, but first of all, there is no dispute between France and us; there is a dispute between France and African peoples. France has a problem with Chad and not with Libya. So I object to the formulation of your question alleging a Libyan-French dispute over Chad. We are friends of both France and Chad. It is out of friendship with France that we advise it to withdraw from the African jungles and morasses lest France, our friend, go astray in these jungles and be burned by the African sun. We fear a repetition of the Dien Bien Phu tragedy in Ndjamena, in Shaba or in Zouerate. We do not wish our friend France to suffer from the repetition of such a tragedy. I am also a friend of President Felix Malloum. I have received him twice in Libya. I am still prepared to receive him once more, and to receive the French president.

[[Name indistinct] of the New York TIMES] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, [words indistinct] various African groups, you supported at the time the Eritrean liberation movement. But for some time now, you have been aiding the Ethiopian Government of Mengistu, alongside the Soviet Union and Cuba. What is your view about what seems to be the beginning of an Ethiopian campaign against Eritrea? Are you going to support the Eritreans or the Ethiopians?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are against settling this problem by force of arms. We are continually meeting with both sides advising them to negotiate, and our efforts in this direction are continuing.

[[Name indistinct] of LE MONDE] I would like to return to the Eritrean question, which is very important. You helped the Eritreans when they were fighting the Ethiopian imperial regime. If I have grasped your meaning, I understand that you think that since Ethiopia has now become a revolutionary state, the struggle of the Eritreans has no more reason to continue and you recommend a political settlement. The point now is that the Eritreans have always said that they are prepared to negotiate, but they contend that negotiating over independence is out of the question for them. Under these conditions, do you think that there can be any negotiations?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In any case, this is the will of the Eritreans. It is up to them to demand independence, or not to demand it. Likewise, it is up to the Ethiopians to accept such a demand or dismiss and combat it. True, we built the Eritrean revolution against Haile Selassie, and our objective was to sow the seeds of revolution in Ethiopia in order to topple Haile Selassie. We incited this revolution against Haile Selassie. Our appeal was heeded and Haile Selassie was overthrown. We believe that time will prompt both Ethiopians and Eritreans into accepting negotiations.

[Unidentified questioner] [Words indistinct] (?there have been recent reports) that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, together with the Palestinians, exerted pressure to dissuade the Cubans from intervening militarily in Eritrea?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not sure about such an intervention (by Cubans), and my opinion about military interventions and their implications has already been made clear from the answers I have given.

[Georges [name indistinct] of LE POINT] Colonel, I would like to pose a more direct question which, I think, interests the French public. For a few years now, a new phenomenon has appeared in history, namely, terrorism. For many French people, Libya is a nation that permits terrorists to seek refuge in it. Is this true or false?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Who are the terrorists? What do you mean by terrorists?

[Same questioner] Those people who open fire in airports.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There has not been any gunfire in our airports [words indistinct]

[Same questioner] Only 2 weeks ago people were killed at Orly in Paris.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] These things happened in France. There has been terrorism in France. We hear about terrorism in Italy, in France, in America, in Britain.

[Same questioner] The terrorists killed during the outrage, I think, had passports issued in countries bordering Libya, or in Libya, forged passports anyway.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The passports were forged then. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs, laughter from the audience.

[Same questioner] You do not want to answer my question.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, I answered. I am prepared to answer.

[Same questioner] Suppose a terrorist had committed an outrage somewhere and sought refuge here in Libya. Could France ask for his expulsion if it were convinced of his guilt? Would you permit his expulsion from Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Basically, we do not admit terrorists here. First, we regret the existence of such a phenomenon in the world. The problem is due to social and economic crisis, and we hold colonialism and capitalism as responsible for the emergence of terrorists. We combat this phenomenon as a consequence of colonialism and capitalism. But regrettably, a just struggle like that of the Palestinian people is sometimes depicted in colonialist and Zionist countries as terrorism. We reject such a distortion.

The objective of the allegations associating Libya with the question of terrorism is to prevent Libya from standing by the just struggle of the Palestinian people, or the struggle of African peoples against racism.

[Jean Claude [name indistinct] of LE MONDE] I would like to pose the same question in a different way. Could you give us your own definition of terrorism, and what difference do you make between what you call a freedom fighter and a terrorist? In other words, do you think that it is right for a person like a Palestinian, struggling for a just cause, to hold that the end justifies the means?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, the methods followed by the Palestinians or others for the sake of their just causes are their own business. As far as we are concerned, we support the cause as such, if it is just, as is the cause of the Palestinian people. As for various forms of action and methods used, they are the responsibility of those concerned. Personally, I hold that the real terrorism is the repression of small peoples by colonialist states. Those who possess atomic bombs are the ones who terrorize the world today. On the other hand, terrorism is not a new phenomenon in the world, even though it is now exercised at the individual level. Since the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, America has been carrying out terrorism in the Mediterranean basin. America has committed aggression against us and has tried to terrorize us with its fleets. There was a war between America and us from 1803 to 1805. American terrorism was defeated on 11 June 1805 in the decisive battle at Derna. I consider the United States to be the state of world terrorism. But because it is a big power, the voices of those who accuse it go unheard.

[Paul Marie [name indistinct] of LE FIGARO] Colonel, the Arab camp has been deeply divided since As-Sadat's initiative. This has weakened the (?force) of this camp. After the failure of President as-Sadat's initiative so far, do you see any possibility of reforming a unified Arab front? And how do you imageine the coming battle will achieve the objective you have set for yourself, that is, a solution to the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What As-Sadat has done takes the Middle East question neither backward nor forward. The basic elements of the question are still there, unaltered. Today, the world is convinced that attempts of this kind cannot solve a grave problem like this one. Perhaps As-Sadat himself is now more persuaded of this fact than anybody else. No doubt As-Sadat is now profoundly repentant. It is in the interest of the world and in the interest of international peace that the Arabs be able to recover their rights and that the aggressors be definitely stopped. So long as this is not achieved, world peace will remain in danger. This conflict might lead to an atomic war because it might cause friction between the superpowers in the Middle East region.

MAURITANIA

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SPEND $25 MILLION ON WESTERN SAHARA

PA191302Y Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 19 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, June 19 (AFP)--Mauritania will spend 100 million francs (25 million dollars) over five years developing the part of former Spanish Sahara it annexed in November 1975 under agreement with Madrid, it was announced here.

The figure was given by a spokesman for the National Aid Committee for Combatants and Their Families, set up last year to help military and civilian victims of the Saharan war.

SUDAN

MINISTER STRESSES MAGNITUDE OF LOCUST THREAT

LD191835Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] Dr Muhammad ash-Shadhili 'Uthman, minister of state in the Agriculture Ministry, has said that there is great danger of an imminent invasion by desert locusts possibly covering more than 250,000 square miles of the African Continent, including Sudan. He added that reports had indicated the presence of swarms of desert locusts in countries neighboring Sudan--in the Ogaden, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The minister of state told the annual agricultural conference at its meeting yesterday that the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] had offered Sudan $250,000 to purchase chemicals to enable it to face this threat. Equipment to fight the desert locusts had also been consigned to Sudan as a contribution from the FAO. West Germany had allocated DM2 million to purchase equipment to help Sudan ward off the expected desert locust invasion.

A report given to the annual agricultural conference by the Plants Protection Department stated that antilocust campaigns had been carried out in the Tokar delta region bordering Eritrea in the past 3 months, but the political situation in the Horn of Africa obstructed the implementation of an integrated campaign against the desert locust. There are intensive operations in Saudi Arabia and Somalia, but the danger still looms.

The Plants Protection Department report said that the necessary measures had been taken and insecticides had been distributed to the strategic areas, while governors of the provinces were being continually supplied with reports on the situation.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO FRONT WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH RED CROSS

LD151856Y Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 15 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers--In a communique, the POLISARIO Front states that it is ready, as in the past, to cooperate as fully as possible in all circumstances with the International Committee of the Red Cross and to facilitate its humanitarian tasks.

"In April and May of 1978," the communique goes on to say, "the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] made simultaneous approaches to the three belligerents" (Morocco, Mauritania and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic). "The POLISARIO Front received the ICRC delegate, to whom a large group of prisoners was to be presented. However, the delegate cancelled his visit to these prisoners considering it necessary to go back to Geneva 'for consultations'."

"He came back a second time, and the same performance was repeated." The communique from the POLISARIO Front goes on to say, "Since then, the ICRC has asked us to receive its delegate yet again. This time he has apparently decided to see it through.

"We are ready to welcome him in the shortest possible time compatible with the many problems facing a people at war with enormous invasion forces...We are, however, sorry that the two other belligerents are not doing the same when they have greater resources available.

'VERBAL LAW' ON CABINET DECISION EXPLAINED

TA191254Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] There is a verbal law, if you like, or explanations which were given to the United States this morning as an appendix to yesterday's cabinet decision. Correspondent Sara Frankel, what is this verbal law, this new law?

Well, first of all, we must remember that the cabinet did not have to repeat or make decisions regarding the autonomy program and so the decision, made last night does not uproot the autonomy program. That program speaks about there being three partners to implement the autonomy--Jordan, Israel and the Arabs who live in the area of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. But in the verbal law, that is in the explanations that the foreign minister has most certainly not yet given to the Knesset, he will say that there are additional partners to the negotiations such as Egypt, which could even be the main partner. But the autonomy plan, which concerns the arrangement of autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, calls for the partners to be Jordan and the Palestinians living in the area.

I want to go back to the cabinet session and explain what differences of opinion there were. From this a definition of this verbal law will also emerge. The question was whether, within the 5 years of autonomy, there would be a mention of the status the area, or whether it will be a question of the system of relations between Israel, Jordan and the autonomy. In theproposal accepted and put forward by the prime minister, there is no mention at all of the area, the territory, because, according to the autonomy program, in accordance with one clause--Clause 26--there is the possibility of discussing changes if one of the sides brings it up.

The cabinet did not want to go into issues it has not been asked about. For example, the U.S. questions do not refer to Resolution No 242 and so the cabinet, in its verbal explanations, can explain that its decision regarding Resolution No 242 remains as it was. The cabinet was not prepared to refer to Resolution No 242 in the decision. The cabinet does not regard the autonomy proposal as temporary--this is the important thing, and the cabinet does not want to create an impression of impermanence and so it could not, for example, accept the DMC proposal. According to the DMC proposal, after 5 years the status of the territory will be discussed, that is, territorial compromise, and if we use their terminology, the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. That means the impermanence of the status of the territory and of the whole autonomy program is determined in advance. The cabinet did not want to create the impression that the autonomy program is temporary.

As I said, the cabinet did not go back on its decision on elements found in the autonomy program, but, nevertheless, it wanted to move toward the Americans, to bring some sort of positive decision in the direction the Americans hoped for. The Americans proposed, in their paper--or in their proposals to Israel--a formula ion that the results of the negotiations would be confirmed by the people living in the area, that is, by the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. This came after it became apparent to the Americans, in the questions put to Israel previously, that the Aswan version would not be acceptable to the Israeli Cabinet: that the Palestinian Arab nation should be a partner in determining its future--the reference here is to self-determination or a referendum. Nevertheless, it did not want to completely negate, to give completely negative replies, so it said:

Okay, if the Americans say--and I am holding the formulation of the answer proposed by the United States--if they say that the results of the negotiations are confirmed by the people living in the area, we agree and we say, or then the cabinet came along and said--and again I am holding in my hand the cabinet decision--that the nature of the future relations between the sides will be discussed after 5 years if either side demands it. That is, it says further on that the inhabitants, the representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will be the partners to the talks. So there is a sort of agreement here between the Israeli Cabinet and the U.S. Government regarding the fact that the Arabs, the inhabitants, will be partners in determining their future, without accepting the original Aswan version which includes self-determination. I assume that this afternoon when the foreign minister gives the Knesset the explanations about the cabinet decision, he will certainly repeat several of the things I have just said.

KNESSET DEBATE ON CABINET STATEMENT REPORTED

Cabinet Reply Endorsed

TA192005Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset expressed support for the government statement as submitted by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. In the vote that took place an hour ago 59 members of the coalition supported the government statement. Thirty-seven voted against and 10 abstained, including the deputy prime minister and seven other members of the DMC.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman was absent from the chamber while the vote took place.

Our correspondent reports that the motions submitted by five other factions were not passed, including the Alinement motion calling for territorial compromise. This motion gained 31 votes for with 69 against.

Weizman Leaves Session

TA192216Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Text] First to the Knesset. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman left the Knesset today in the middle of the political debate and will not take part in the voting. The defense minister's appearance in the Knesset was surprising, in light of reports about his intention to boycott the debate following the grave discord which emerged between him and Mr Begin at yesterday's cabinet session, following which it became known that the defense minister intends to stay away from political activity and deal only with matters of his ministry. Political correspondent 'Amiram Nir will survey the background of Mr Weizman's moves:

Thus has the defense minister surprised everyone this afternoon and arrived at the political debate despite all the rumors. However, 2 hours later Mr Weizman returned to his car and left the Knesset without participating in the voting. Why? His associates say that Weizman cannot vote for a decision which he so fiercely came out against in principle; this would simply be hypocritical. On the other hand, he cannot vote against the cabinet decision without resigning, which he definitely does not want to do. He believes that his job is to continue and convince the government and his party, the Likud, of the correctness of his positions. He certainly regards himself as part of the circle of decision-makers and part of the government. That is why he also decided to come to the Knesset today and demonstrate his presence.

As dissatisfied as he may be, Weizman does not think that his struggle is hopeless. There is a certain basis for support for his positions in the Likud and this basis can also grow.

As for the cabinet, in the vote yesterday Weizman was indeed in the minority, but in the deliberations that preceded the vote, the opinions he voiced found the support of a majority. Weizman himself was surprised both by his colleagues' vote and by the formula of the decision which the prime minister brought to the debate, a formula which was substantively different from the one Mr Begin had shown him in their meeting on Friday.

However, the government's decision is not the end of everything, in the defense minister's opinion. He fears that the question will soon arise again. For example, there is a need to give an answer in the next few days to the latest message by General al-Jamasi, who asks on what basis the direct negotiations can be renewed. The whole affair of the questions and answers with the United States was intended, at least in Weizman's concept, to renew the main effort: the direct negotiations with Egypt. If the direct negotiations are not resumed, the threat of confrontation may increase. This is a closed system. The less chances for peace there are, in the defense minister's view, the more the chances for war. That is why in the coming period Mr Weizman will focus on matters of the defense system and will cease giving a large part of his time to political activity.

As will be recalled, the defense minister started his job about a year ago with a similar approach, that is, focusing only on military affairs. Only as a result of the emergence of the peace process--As-Sadat's visit--did Weizman enter the center of the political arena.

It may perhaps be assumed that if and when the chances for peace increase, Mr Weizman will return to take his place in the political process.

Dayan Addresses Knesset

TA191553Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1407 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Speech by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan opening the Knesset political debate on the cabinet reply to the United States--live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, honorable Knesset: At a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state in Washington on 27 April 1978 we were asked two questions. The first: Will we agree that, if any party should, within 5 years, raise the question of sovereignty, this the issue will be decided? The second question: If the answer to the first question is in the affirmative, how will the determination with reference to it be made?

Yesterday, the cabinet discussed giving answers to these questions and the majority of the cabinet members did not find it appropriate that Israel should now make a commitment that, in 5 years, or 5 years after the peace agreement is reached and administrative autonomy is applied, Israel commit itself that it would determine at that time the question of sovereignty, as the question had first been presented, or as it was later formulated by the U.S. ambassador, on the question of the permanent status of the territories of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The majority of the cabinet members did not find it appropriate to commit themselves now that 5 years after autonomy and peace had been in existence, that we should now commit ourselves to decide what will happen then on this matter.

Moreover, the cabinet's basic assumption, that of the majority of the cabinet members--and I hope that all the members of the cabinet, but I am sure that this is the basic assumption of most of the members of the cabinet--is that this regime of administrative autonomy--we regard it as the framework of what is called a permanent status--with all it includes--and I shall in just a moment enumerate certain articles in it--but we do not regard it as a temporary, limited arrangement which comes to an end automatically, say, 5 years after its beginning.

When I say that we regard the arrangement of administrative autonomy to be a proposal for a permanent arrangement with all its articles, I would like to emphasize two of them first and foremost. The first--the last article, Article 26, which says that these principles--since there are only 26 articles--these principles are all the principles there are in the preceding 25 articles, all the principles are included in the autonomy plan. These principles will be subject to reassessment after a period of 5 years. When I say that the members of the cabinet or most of them regard this as an appropriate arrangement, as a permanent arrangement, it includes this article--that after 5 years of implementation, of the experience of daily life under that rule, all these principles will be subject to reassessment. If, as a result of the reassessment, by mutual consent, they will want to change part of them, some of them, whichever of them, one way or the other it will be possible to do so. In other words, not a rigid plan of which nothing can be changed or from which there can be no deviations. Moreover, the central issue as well, that of the question of sovereighty, it too, as has been said and has been said repeatedly, this issue remains open. In other words, that setup, that rule of administrative autonomy, does not grant sovereignty to any one of the parties--not Israeli sovereignty, not the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and not, if somebody should want to regard it, Jordanian sovereignty--on all, or part, of the territory. Rather, none of the parties will have sovereignty over that territory between the Jordan River and what is called the green line, except for the Jerusalem areas expanded after the 6-day war. However, if one of the parties should want to raise that issue. . . .

[Indistinct interjection]

[Dayan] You will have enough time, MK Tubi, you will have enough time during my speech both to interrupt and to ask. Perhaps for only a few minutes, just as an opening, things could be said in an orderly manner?

Well, this issue of sovereignty as well, which according to the proposal for administrative autonomy does not apply to these territories, will be open for their initiative, and if one of the parties wants to raise that issue it will be dealt with after 5 years.

I repeat, when we regard the administrative autonomy settlement as a settlement that deserves to be permanent we include in this the internal mechanism that enables not only a reassessment but even discussion of the most central of issues--sovereignty. Therefore, the decision of most cabinet members was, this being the case, that when the Israeli Government is asked: Is the Israeli Government prepared now to commit itself that after 5 years it will decide on a permanent status for these territories? It says that we regard this settlement as a nontemporary settlement and a suitable settlement to serve as a basis for a permanent settlement, including the mechanism for changes inherent in it, and that if, after 5 years, someone wants to raise one or another question of principle, or the question of sovereignty, he will be able to do so. In addition to this, the basic position of the Israeli Government is that every issue is open to negotiation. This is our proposal, which has not even begun to be discussed; it has not yet been put on the negotiating table between us and the Arab parties. So, if there are other proposals, or counterproposals or different proposals including additional clauses we will discuss them. However, today, before this issue has even been discussed, not only before it has been agreed upon, we do not think it necessary that we already commit ourselves that after 5 years there are to be deliberations and a decision on the issue of a permanent status. This is the first comment that I wished to make.

Now, I wish to read the decision itself despite the fact that I assume that the Knesset members have read it.

[MK Shulamit Alloni:] Why did the government not put it on the desks of the Knesset members?

[Unidentified MK] Don't you read the newspapers?

[Dayan] I did not hear the question and I ask that I be allowed to make my remarks. I will be pleased to answer questions.

[Alloni] I am not complaining against you but against the government which should have seen to it that this be placed on the desks of the Knesset members.

[Dayan] The cabinet's decision of 18 June 1978, says...

[Several interjections, a request by the Knesset speaker that Dayan be permitted to speak]

[Dayan] The decision consists of three clauses and the first clause says: The Israeli Government regards as essential the continuation of the process of dialog between it and its neighbors aimed at achieving a peace agreement.

The second clause: The Israeli Government expresses its agreement that 5 years after the activation of administrative autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, to take effect when peace is established, the nature of the future relations between the sides will be discussed and agreed upon, if any side requests this.

The third clause: The framework for these deliberations is negotiations between the sides with the participation of the representation of the residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, elected in accordance with the autonomy plan with the purpose of reaching an agreement between them.

[MK Me'ir Pa'el of Shelli interjects at length while the Knesset speaker attempts to restore order]

[Dayan] I wish to clarify certain points with regard to this decision and also certain points not included in the decision but which are connected with this issue. The first point I want to clarify is simply the term used here, two or three times, and that is, the term "sides." That is to say, in effect, in this decision we have used the term sides in two different ways: one, when we talk about deliberations and peace negotiations--whether with respect to the activation of the administrative autonomy, the basic peace agreement, at this time, or with respect to one or another permanent settlement--what we term here as the future relations between the sides, the bodies or sides that we are referring to are representatives of three countries: Egypt, Jordan and Israel--and representatives of the residents of the Arab territories living in the territories in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. This structure and composition--that the negotiations on the future of these territories, the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District--be conducted by such a working group was agreed on in the past in the Israel-U.S. working paper. We repeat now that with respect to peace negotiations over these territories we regard these four bodies as representative--as those which should be partner to these settlements. Moreover, today the central Arab body....

[Several interjections. At this point the radio announcer states: "The dispute in the Knesset is about something that has happened in the visitors gallery. A group of people from the Peace Now Movement, wearing Peace Now T-shirts, are being forcibly ejected by Knesset ushers after having stood up in the gallery and having caught the attention of the Knesset members." Various Knesset members continue to shout, with the Knesset speaker trying to restore order. Several members can be heard asking why the members of the Peace Now Movement were ejected. The interjections continue for several minutes.]

[Dayan] What I am trying to explain--and I have no idea what the rumpus was about... [inaudible interjections] What I want to explain is the difference between the term sides that appears in clause three which says: The framework for conducting these deliberations is negotiations between the sides with the participation of a representation of the residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District--and here, when we talk about the sides, we are referring to Egypt, Jordan, the representatives of the Arab territories and the Israeli Government--and between what was said in clause two, which says: The nature of the future relations between the sides will be discussed and agreed upon if any party requests this. Here, in clause two, when we say the nature of the future relations between the sides will be discussed and agreed upon--and this is the principle of the decision--we are referring to the sides that appear in the proposal for administrative autonomy. We stand by this proposal and we do not wish to deviate from it, neither add to nor subtract from it; we wish to stand by it. Three sides appear in the administrative autonomy proposal: the elected representatives of the administrative autonomy--the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District--representatives of the Israeli Government and, in certain cases, representatives of the Jordanian Government.

[Interjection by MK Wilner] What about Gush Emunim? They are also residents. The Arab residents will boycott this so only Gush Emunim will participate in the election of the administration and Rabbi Levinger will be the leader of the administration. [laughter]

[Dayan] As an example of this, clause 19 says, a committee of representatives of Israel, Jordan and the administrative council will be established. Clause 21 says that a committee of representatives of Israel, Jordan and the administrative council will be established to discuss emigration issues. Clause 23 says, the administrative council will appoint one of its members to represent it before the Jordanian Government, and so forth. What I want to say here is that when we speak about the nature of future relations between the sides, and we are talking about the administrative autonomy plan, the sides are those which appear in the administrative autonomy proposal--that is, the representatives of the elected institutions of the administrative autonomy, of the Jordanian Government--and the nature of relations with it, on the one hand, and the nature of relations with Israel on the other, and perhaps, the joint framework of relations between the three. [sentence as heard] When we speak about the future relations here we are not speaking about good or bad relations but the nature of the relations, about the character of the relations and about the degree of closeness or intensity or weakness of the ties and relations. We attach great importance to this.

With your permission, in addition to the point I stressed earlier that we stand by the autonomy plan and, therefore, the sides between which the relations should exist are those appearing in the autonomy plan, I wish to say that in a similar but not identical connection--but there are implications, especially when people are so interested in what the U.S. Government's reaction to our answers to its questions will be--I want to remind the members of the house that when President Carter made a proposal, which is unacceptable to us, to hold a referendum about these territories--Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District--among their residents, saying that he does not include the option of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state but that the residents would be able to vote for one of the three options--to continue the administrative autonomy, to strengthen the ties with Jordan or to strengthen the ties with Israel--our proposal was neither identical nor similar to this proposal. However, in this American approach broached by the U.S. President it was said that there is a possibility of a rapprochement of one kind or another: either leaving the status quo, or closer ties--President Carter used the word linkage--with respect to Jordan or with respect to closer ties with Israel; I am adding the possibility of close ties between the three sides.

So, when we speak about the nature of future relations we are referring to such relations. We are not referring to a change in the sides, neither with respect to Jordan nor with respect to Israel, nor with respect to a change in the structure of the administrative autonomy, but with respect to the nature of the mutual relations between them.

The next point that I wish to touch upon...

[MK Tubi asks Dayan to say things clearly]

[Dayan] MK Tubi, look how I do not disturb you during your speech.

The next point that I wish to discuss is the government's position with respect to clause two of Security Council Resolution 242. This issue has been raised more than once, both here and in public debates and also in the deliberations that we conducted with U.S. representatives on the relevant issues--on these questions and answers--this question was raised and I want to repeat--not bring anything new--but repeat and clarify our position--the government's position--on this issue.

On 22 March 1978 we submitted a proposal to the U.S. Government for the declaration of principles and in this declaration--in clause two--we said: In the framework of such a settlement and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 338 the two governments express their readiness to conduct negotiations for peace treaties to fulfill all the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which will serve as the basis for negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Clause three provides, on the basis of the principles of Resolution 242 mentioned above: A) there will be a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from territories captured in the conflict of 1967. I am saying this mainly to Knesset Members Eban and Peres. I heard their remarks on the radio that the Israeli Government does not accept Resolution 242. However, this is an aside in my remarks because I have not yet finished what I wanted to say with respect to our approach to the issue of 242. Moreover, in the meeting on 21 March 1978 in the United States with President Carter and in answer to his questions the representative of the Israeli delegation--the legal adviser--said the following among other things: 242 is applicable to all areas. The real question is the question of withdrawal. We, Israel, have submitted a plan for self-rule which is in keeping with 242. This is our position. Our plan is open to negotiation. If there are other plans they also are open to negotiation but the main point on our part is that our proposal for self-rule is in keeping with 242. I want to say to the Knesset members that this is the government's position. We have said in writing to the United States and to their most senior officials: This is our position--that we believe that 242 should serve as the basis for negotiations between us and all the neighbors, including Jordan. This resolution is applicable to all the territories and, in our opinion, our proposal about the administrative autonomy is in keeping with Resolution 242 and the clauses that it includes--and I have itemized these clauses and I did not neglect the clause which we submitted in writing to the United States maintaining that 242 refers to withdrawal from territories.

[MK Tubi begins another interjection]

[Dayan] MK Tubi, I invite you to a cup of coffee where the two of us can talk alone, but now I want to speak not only to you but to all the Knesset members and I ask you not to start a dialog between us. I am not interested in talking only to you at this moment.

[MK Pa'el] Do you have anything new to tell us today?

[Dayan] This is our position on Resolution 242 as we submitted it to the secretary of state with respect to the declaration of principles and as we stated it in the meeting with the U.S. President, the central point being that we regard the administrative autonomy plan as a plan that is in keeping with Resolution 242. This does not mean that there cannot be other plans. This is our plan. It does not oppose nor does it ignore, but we regard it as being in keeping with Resolution 242.

To end, I want to say that up to now we have had only two short meetings--one yesterday, by telephone, with the U.S. ambassador here and today, a longer meeting--in which we added to the things given to them in writing with respect to the cabinet's decision. We added clarifications and we answered questions, some of which I touched upon today and others which were posed to us by the U.S. ambassador and I cannot say that additional questions will not be asked. I can say that the U.S. ambassador will submit to Washington not only the decision but also the clarifications that we gave. At any rate, I assume that you have read and I wish to repeat the main sentence of the State Department spokesman's statement yesterday after they received the Israeli Government's decision. It says that the United States will hold consultations with all sides with respect to the path of progress on the basis of the Israeli answer and the views that will be expressed in the exchanges between the United States and Egypt. I do not know if this is the final reaction. As I have said, we have made additional clarifications. However, if this is the U.S. position--that what it has received from us, which is the position of the Israeli Government--that the U.S. Government wishes to have exchanges with us and with the Egyptians concerning the paths to continue negotiations, then we will be very pleased. Thank you.

Peres Delivers Speech

TA191823Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1440 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Speech by opposition leader MK Shim'on Peres at the Knesset debate on the cabinet reply to the United States--live]

[Text] Honorable Knesset: The cabinet's decision of yesterday creates a basis for partial peace between the cabinet ministers and grants administrative autonomy to the DMC, an autonomy which will be in effect as soon as all the deliberation and determination processes end.

On the other hand, it will gravely worsen Israel's international situation, will cause it to be even more isolated, will deepen the breach with the United States, will place a burden on the negotiations with Egypt, which, let us hope, will continue. This decision will place the future of Judaea and Samaria within the 1967 borders, in the event it is accepted, unless the cabinet continues to act toward turning it into an unacceptable decision. This, too, is nothing new, because what the government has decided to give up on today is a concession for good. However, what the government is doing today is placing a burden on the peace process.

Just as on the Sinai issue, so with the issue of Judaea and Samaria: the government has offered a maximum territorial price but prevents itself from receiving the political compensation by way of peace. Regarding the Sinai the government has decided to return to the 1967 borders and the cabinet has assumed that if it offers Egypt a maximum territorial price it will save itself from having to consider its own political problems.

In Judaea and Samaria, the autonomy will be applied in effect up to the green line. The autonomy is of a temporary nature, and no explanations will help, because after 5 years each party will take up the territory under autonomy to rediscuss it. I assume that Israel will propose one of the following alternatives: either to extend the temporary 5 years with another 5 years, or to enforce Israeli law immediately over the entire area.

Even though under the proposed autonomy plan the inhabitants of the territories will elect temporary organizations which must represent the desires of the Palestinian Arabs regarding the future, our cabinet assumes that with the help of articles in the agreement--what it calls the nature of the relationships--a situation will be created in which the Arabs in the territories will support the application of Israeli law to the area. Against a stormy and dynamic reality the government is proposing a barricade of paper, as though the smoke of the subtle formulation will stop the course of developments.

Members of the Knesset, this sorry decision was preceded by several weeks of semipublic deliberations which heavily damaged Israel's status--and all of this to enable the government to get out of the maze which it created, for instead of discussing with Egypt a declaration of principles regarding the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza region--as Egypt and we have agreed--the government proposes to enter a discussion over the details of the operation. I assume the government has understood that entering a discussion concerning details will push it into further complications with the United States and with the Arab world. However, it has done so to save its soul from the need to agree--as previous governments have agreed, and not according to the interpretation of the legal adviser--that UN Security Council Resolution 242 applies to the eastern front as well. This government is trying to evade the implication of Resolution 242.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] Please do not interrupt me.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] This government is trying--I will get to it, wait patiently--this government is trying to evade the implication of Resolution 242 like a man tries to evade his own shadow--and with the same degree of success.

The United States agreed to enter into a discussion on details after it receives the replies by the government to two leading questions--two questions behind which a series of further questions hide, questions which can be observed even by the ordinary eye. When the cabinet began its deliberations on the response to the two questions--and this is, as is well known, a cabinet from which nothing leaks, everything is confidential--at least four replies, draft replies, were placed on the cabinet's table so that the entire world could compare them and decide which one of the proposals is the most moderate, which one is the most extreme. Finally, the government accepted a fifth proposal the wisdom and trustworthiness of which is questioned even by some of its members.

Two of the replies placed before the cabinet were distinguished by their clarity. Minister Landau, who was the first to publicly announce that Israel rejects the application of UN Security Council Resolution 242 on Judaea and Samaria, proposed that the Arabs first of all sign a peace and afterward they will be granted administrative autonomy, and after 5 years we will examine it and see if it is worthwhile reexamining it. One must admit that in this reply there is at least one characteristic of the two needed for policy: clarity and wisdom. I do not especially mean wisdom.

The defense minister proposed that in the peace process it will be possible after 5 years to decide on the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Region. This reply takes into account security needs and the position of the United States, which is an important contributor to Israel's security.

In the cabinet's decisive session there was no DMC proposal, even though the DMC admitted that there is a need to provide a reply. The DMC temporarily adopted the defense minister's proposal, hoping that he would withdraw from it. [as heard] The DMC leader, Prof Yiga'el Yadin, made it clear that now we have reached the height of the emergency. However, the emergency apparently refers only to the questions, not to the answers, because giving a clear and decisive answer with all it really entails would also have heightened the emergency with respect to the DMC's remaining in its cabinet seats. One must admit that after the DMC, while holding cabinet seats, wisely managed to enact the change in the electoral system, it also succeeded in bringing the government to support a territorial compromise--without which, as is known, there is a danger either to the democratic character or to the Jewish character of Israel.

There was another proposal by the foreign minister, the proposal which was intended to patch over Israeli rips and Israeli-U.S. rips, even though the size of the fabric he cut could not suffice to cover the holes in the clothes.

The proposal accepted was, as will be recalled, that of the prime minister, which is different from all the proposals that preceded it mainly in what it does not have--so that the world, including the United States and the Arab countries, could by way of comparison, see the smallness of it and the greatness of its blindness.

The differences between the proposals of the prime minister and the foreign minister are obvious, and they are all in the direction of greater strictness and extremism. The foreign minister proposed that at the end of 5 years the essence of the relationships will be rediscussed. The prime minister changed this to a discussion of the nature of the relationships. This is as if we were dealing with romanticism and not with a constitution. There is no change, so why was it changed?

Referring to the ways to discuss, the foreign minister sought an alternative to a referendum in Judaea and Samaria and suggested that instead of a referendum--which we all reject--there be two substitutes: one--that the discussion on the future be conducted between the elected bodies of the autonomy and Israel's elected bodies, between the elected bodies of the autonomy and those of Jordan and through having the three countries, or the three groups, take a close look at the mutual relationships. [sentence as heard]

As will be recalled, what he suggested is elected bodies instead of a referendum. He proposed that besides the Palestinians there will also be Jordan, which was included in his proposal twice: once in the framework of its relationships with the autonomy and once within the tripartite framework of autonomy, Jordan and Israel. The prime minister ran away from this proposal and sailed into the fog. In his proposal there is reference to negotiations between the sides, without specifying. As for the autonomy's bodies, it says in his proposal in vague language: in cooperation with them, and that, too, only in accordance with the autonomy plan.

The foreign minister suggested another possibility, which is even more farreaching, which is that instead of a referendum, at the end of 5 years, special elections for this matter will be conducted and the people's opinion would find expression by electing the council that represents the majority's opinion. This proposal, too, was erased from the prime minister's proposal. The foreign minister with difficulty proposed including a reference to Resolution 242, saying that Israel considers its autonomy plan to be an appropriate implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 as well as a fair basis for peace. Even this limited Israeli view of Resolution 242 was deleted from the prime minister's decision. What is common to both proposals is that, unlike the defense minister, who is prepared to discuss a permanent status, the two proposals are willing to discuss the essence of the relationships or their nature, as if the reference is to relationships between men floating in the air, having no contact with the ground on which they are living.

Following the deliberations by the cabinet, what are the chances that such a proposal, which was not accepted by some of the ministers, will be accepted by the United States, or by the Arabs--when senior ministers do not accept it and other ministers either after the fact or a priori doubt its seriousness and its veracity?

Today, in the Knesset, the foreign minister added a verbal law to the written law. My question is simple: What is the need for this distinction? If what is being said and what has been written have equal status, why distinguish between the two?

[Indistinct interjection by Deputy Prime Minister Yadin]

[Peres] Why, you came here to amend the world, Mr Deputy Prime Minister. We are talking about an amended world. The orchestration of the autonomy proposal began with a loud fanfare. In a U.S. television interview the prime minister announced, and I am quoting him, for the first time in history our proposals open a chance for the Arab Palestinians, in English, or the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, in Hebrew, to obtain self-rule. The prime minister said that for years they were ruled by the Turks, for decades by the British, close to 20 years by Jordan, and for the last 11 years they were under Israeli military rule. The Israeli rule was very generous, the prime minister says, but military rule should protect the people, not rule them. Now, the prime minister concludes, we have brought proposals which will insure an autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs, or the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, and security for the Jews of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Mr Pa'il] This indeed was the prime minister's great deception, and for this reason we thought we could trust...

[Peres] What were the Arab Palestinian inhabitants to understand if not that the prime minister is bringing them tidings--and let us speak the truth--of the process for reaching their independence. This is more than the Balfour Declaration. Were they to understand that by his announcement the prime minister means that after the autonomy ends, after 5 or more years, they should agree to it that the entire territory pass to Israeli sovereignty--and, moreover, through mutual agreement?

Since the prime minister fears...

[MK Savidor] Did he say that it will end...

[Peres] It will never end, forever and ever...

[indistinct interjection]

[Peres] Is it permitted to examine it after 5 years? Since at present the prime minister is afraid of touching the ground, he sought a compromise in the relationships. He got so deeply involved in the theory of relations that it was inadvertently determined that the area of the relationships is within the 1967 borders. He overcame his fear of a territorial compromise by agreeing to a functional compromise for the entire territory. He puts the load of forming the relationships mainly on the inhabitants of the territories, utterly ignoring the fact that each of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria has a commitment to Jordan. They are Jordanian citizens. [Ignoring the fact] that many of them fear the PLO, that some of them have a yearning for the PLO, will they really be able to sign the compromise demanded of them without having a green light from Jordan and despite a red light from the PLO?

I must say that the foreign minister understood the dilemma and proposed a Jordanian option. The prime minister fears a Jordanian option, especially the impression it would create within Herut, and he therefore left all the doors of the autonomy open for an attack by the PLO.

On the one hand the prime minister called upon the inhabitants of the territories to free themselves of foreign rule: Turks and British in the past, Israelis today; and on the other they are to understand that the ground will be Israeli after 5, 50 years. What an absurdity!

Mr Prime Minister, what is the guarantee that this is indeed the way things will be conducted? Is the guarantee that piece of paper the cabinet has composed? The dam of words, the smoke of the formulations which would have to fight against a dynamic reality, against the inhabitants' nationalistic feelings, against pressure by the Arab countries, against the support of world public opinion, against their very existence as a vast majority in the area? What will stop this? Your formulation?

The prime minister placed Herut's ancient platform up against this reality and after certain pains, the honorable members of the cabinet said "amen." The government continues to ignore reality even today and that is why it has proposed the following order of events, it is worth paying attention to it: First of all, the Arabs must sign a peace treaty; then the administrative autonomy will come; then 5 years will elapse; and then a discussion will take place on the nature of the relationships, if one party should so request. By making the decision, the cabinet turned the autonomy into a temporary arrangement, but it remained firm in its demand that the compensation will be a permanent compensation.

Members of the Knesset, does anyone of you believe in such mutuality? That the Arabs will agree to this?

I am asking: Is there an alternative to this policy?

[Indistinct interjections]

[Peres] I shall answer. MK Nissim, it is not worth rushing, it is not worth rushing, you will get an answer.

I am asking if there is an alternative to this policy. The answer is definitely in the affirmative. By way of polemicizing...

[Indistinct interjection by Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Horowitz]

[Peres] Yig'al, you close every plant which is not profitable. Why did you run to Bet She'an? [Referring to the impending closure of Bet She'an Kitan textile plant, which Minister Horowitz visited today]

[Indistinct interjection]

[Peres] In 4 days. By way of polemicizing, I could have said: Given the lack of agreement on a territorial compromise, is it appropriate to propose a noncompromise on territories, that is to say, for the entire territory? Let us say that the Arabs do not accept, so then what? To suggest the entire territory? What do you propose? In our opinion the possibility of territorial compromise is envisaged in Resolution 242, a resolution which indeed has three different interpretations: an Egyptian interpretation, a U.S. interpretation and an Israeli interpretation. However, all the parties have accepted it, the resolution, and no one can force the other to depart from its interpretation. Despite the differences in the interpretations, it makes it possible to progress on the way to peace. If indeed Egypt claims that the interpretation of the resolution is a withdrawal to the 1967 borders--and by the way, the present government agreed to this interpretation regarding the Sinai--this interpretation of Egypt's must be rejected outright. Israel must also vigorously object to conducting negotiations under the shadow of threats of war--and such sounds have been heard, made by the president of Egypt.

Neither should Israel conduct negotiations by way of dictates, whether they are American or Egyptian. Israel must conduct negotiations because it wishes to, out of a deep recognition that it is capable of defending the peace, if it is reached, just as it is capable of defending itself in war, if it should come.

Some members of the cabinet have repeatedly declared that they believed in the sincerity of Egypt and its president's desire for peace, but even those who doubt it, let them not doubt Israel's desire to strive for peace and the ability of Israel and Egypt to reach peace and the ability of those who want peace to fight against those who provoke war.

In the first half of February this year I met with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat in Salzburg. I received authorization to publicize some points from the talk we held. The talk took place without the taking of minutes...

[MK Wilner] Is that the talk held at the Eagle's Nest?

[Peres] Immediately after it ended. At the beginning of the talk I made it clear to President as-Sadat that I am neither an official or an unofficial agent and that there is only one government in Israel. I informed him that I had informed the prime minister in advance about the meeting and that I intended to report to him about it in full. This is what I did.

President as-Sadat made it clear at the beginning of the talk that his decision to go to Jerusalem did not come easily and that even after what he called the October victory he reached the conclusion that there was no point in conducting more wars, with all that wars entail, wars in which weapons that are becoming increasingly more lethal are used. Therefore he decided to devote his life to peace. Before he left for Jerusalem he found that most of the ways leading to negotiations are bumpy. For example, in his words, going to Geneva without a preliminary preparation means sinking into friction, arguments and useless deliberations which have no end. He chose a short and straight path. Both in his visit in Jerusalem and on his return to Cairo, he learned how much the two nations, the people in Israel and the people in Egypt, really want peace.

After he had learned about Israel's readiness to evacuate the Sinai--in Jerusalem the issue of the settlements was not mentioned--he accepted the proposal of the Israeli prime minister submitted in Ismailia concerning the establishment of two committees: a Political and a Military committee. As-Sadat thought that there was no special significance to the issue of the Political Committee's agenda. However, as far as he was concerned, if an argument should arise, the impression as though one party were dictating the desired agenda to the other should not be created. He thought that the agenda must not be, nor look like, an Egyptian proposal to Israel nor like an Israeli proposal to Egypt, but a joint proposal made by the two countries.

In meetings between the two defense ministers--the Israeli and the Egyptian--As-Sadat added, the practical discussion of the deployment in the Sinai began. According to his words, As-Sadat assumed that since full peace will prevail between us and everything will be open for movement, there is no special significance in dealing with details. He believed that it was possible to make fairly quick progress in these deliberations. As-Sadat objected to border changes in the Sinai and claimed that the settlements were on Egyptian soil. I made it clear that the government's position on the settlement issue was the position of the vast majority in the Knesset and that just as for him the soil is sacred, for us security based on the positioning of settlements is vital. On the other hand, it became clear to me that there was a solution which might be acceptable to both Israel and Egypt on the issue of the airfields. I shall not go into detail.

I also got the impression that in As-Sadat's view there was no point in discussing the settlement issue any further before we reached an agreement on the other question: the principle question of the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Region. As for those areas, he said that he had no territorial aspirations, but to him the Palestinian problem is the most important problem. On this point, he claimed that no progress whatsoever was made. I am especially emphasizing the following phrase: Not even progress in declarations.

He was deeply disappointed that when the Egyptian delegation came to Jerusalem it found the media and the cabinet busy with discussions of further settlements in the Sinai. He understands that, unlike in the Sinai, where there is an old and recognized international border, in Judaea and Samaria there is room to make certain minor border alterations. Moreover, he is aware that, again unlike in the Sinai, in Judaea and Samaria Israel has real security problems. Therefore, in his opinion as well, Israel is entitled to security arrangements, perhaps in the form of military footholds in Judaea and Samaria.

[Unidentified MK] MK Peres, you have been convinced and you agreed with him. Are you talking on behalf of As-Sadat or on behalf of the Labor Party?

[Peres] I am reporting to the Knesset things As-Sadat said and I am not talking on his behalf.

[Unidentified MK] This report is so convincing that you are speaking on behalf of him!

[Peres] Sir, you are a young member of the Knesset. Even a foreign minister and a prime minister tell the Knesset what, in their evaluation, is the Egyptian position. It is also my duty to inform the Knesset what is my own evaluation of the Egyptian position. Why are you so angry?

[Indistinct interjections]

[Announcer] The interjections are from the Likud benches. Those making the interjections are MK's Mikha'el Dekel and Ehud Olmert.

[Peres] ...and Samaria. I repeat again that in his opinion, too, there is room to have military footholds in Judaea and Samaria. As for the future of Judaea and Samaria, he believed--and this is the central point in my opinion--that if we reached an arrangement on a declarations of principles, it will not be he who conducts the negotiations on the implementation, but Jordan and the Palestinians. [words indistinct] (?He supports) a connection between Judaea, Samaria and Jordan and he talks about those Palestinians who, in his view, are moderate. According to his words, he seeks a full, comprehensive and overall agreement, but Egypt does not intend to give the right of veto concerning its own policy to any other party, and certainly not to a party which refuses to support this policy.

In conclusion, I would say that I got the impression that a geographical arrangement in the Sinai--and our government agreed to a far-reaching geographical arrangement there--with the addition of a declaration of principles regarding the future of Judaea and Samaria which would include a reference to Resolution 242 and which does not necessarily entail a return to the 1967 borders, and which makes an IDF presence in the territories possible, and a total rejection of a Palestinian country...

[Indistinct interjection by Minister-Without-Portfolio Nissim]

[Peres] Don't interrupt me, MK Nissim. Be a minister, behave properly, sit quietly.

...would pave the way to negotiations between us and Jordan, the inhabitants and Egypt. Alternatively in the event it did not, an arrangement between ourselves and Egypt only. In yet another alternative, at the very least, an understanding between us and the United States. I have heard this evaluation also during talks in Washington with several heads of the administration there.

The cabinet's decision of yesterday might lead in the opposite direction. It will deepen the argument with the United States, it will raise additional questions to which the government has no answers; it will cast a heavy shadow on the continuation of the negotiations; it will present Israel to public opinion in an erroneous light; and does not prevent the possibility of the establishment of a Palestinian entity in the future. At present it only places a burden on the negotiations.

Mr Chairman, the alinement's policy would have prevented this scene in which the world asks and Israel finds it difficult to answer, because it would have made it possible to reach an agreement on a declaration of principles which would include the application of Resolution 242 on all the fronts. It would have agreed--according to the Aswan formula--that the Palestinians have the right to participate in the determination of their own future. After the questions were asked, the alinement would have answered with clarity that we are prepared to discuss a permanent arrangement, because such an arrangement would be founded on what is implied from Resolution 242, that is: the principle of withdrawal from territories--not from all the territories--on the one hand, and insuring security borders--not the 1967 borders--on the other. Israel's security needs, which are in harmony with Israel's desire to maintain the Jewish character of the state, will also be expressed by an IDF presence in the territories, with reliance on the settlements there. The rejection of establishing a Palestinian state will be accompanied by an agreement to hold a discussion with Jordan and with the Palestinians regarding the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian framework to solve the Palestinian problem permanently.

Our policy is based on first think, then act. The thought is a Jewish, not a binational state; secure borders; peace with Egypt and the other Arab countries; insuring Israel's security; the solution of the Palestinian problem; political coordination with the United States and the improvement of Israel's international status.

Members of the Knesset, I have read that Prof Yiga'el Yadin said today, according to the newspaper, that Begin is not giving the United States answers. The defense minister said: You have appeased one another, but you escaped discussing the important thing. I am warning you against the inscription which is being written on the wall. Weizman was right: The Knesset debate should have been held before the leaks from the government.

Eban, Katz Remarks

TA191628Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Excerpt] The political debate in the Knesset is continuing. Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin announced that his faction will abstain from voting at the end of the debate because the proposal submitted by his faction to the cabinet was not accepted.

Alinement MK Abba Eban said that the key to getting out of the entanglement is the plan of territorial compromise. In his opinion there is no connection between the government's autonomy plan and Resolution 242.

Likud MK Avraham Katz said that the government's peace plan has assets: calming the spirits and creating an atmosphere beneficial for the continuation of the negotiations and for the questions and answers which will be coming.

Other MK's Views

TA191942Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Over to the Knesset: Some 22 speakers have been registered for the political debate and up to this moment only 10 have spoken. It thus appears that the debate will go on until late tonight. Here is a report from our correspondent in the Knesset, Razzi Barqay, on what has been heard up to now:

Today's debate like many other long debates has become tedious and each Knesset member is pouring out his view without there being a dialog between them. The lack of interjections here points to the fact that almost everything has been said before and opinions have not changed.

The first to speak was MK Abba Eban who with his usual style attacked the government which, in his opinion, is only interested in keeping Judaea and Samaria and gaining time--5 years or 50 years--until they are annexed to Israel. [begin recording]

[Eban] In accordance with this conception, the integrity of the country is more important than Israel's international status, is more important than the improvement of relations with the United States, is more important than resuming the peace momentum and is more important than ensuring the Jewish character of the State of Israel. All the refusals I have mentioned, including the last one, are basically a single refusal--a refusal to conceive of the fact that certain residents and territories west of the Jordan be under the flag of a neighboring Arab country. [end recording]

[Barqay] While the speeches are being made from the podium the various proposals to conclude the debate are being formulated outside the chamber. Each faction will submit its proposal for a vote and there is no doubt that the coalition will enjoy a majority. However, it will be interesting to see how the DMC votes on the Citizens Rights Movement's proposal. MK Alloni will submit a proposal which is a verbatim copy of the proposal made by the DMC in the cabinet. Opposition leaders are attacking the DMC position and this is perhaps the reason why Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin has spoken as a rank and file Knesset member in order to defend the government and its decision yesterday. [Begin recording]

[Yadin] The fact that the government went in a more positive direction--I have no doubt that the DMC position in the government made a significant contribution toward this. Even the proposal submitted to the cabinet at the beginning of yesterday's session underwent several changes that brought it much closer to our position. The first clause in the government's proposal, which is of major importance, in my opinion, in that it discusses the necessity of negotiations with Egypt, was taken from our proposal. [end recording]

[Barqay] Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of MAFDAL is at peace with the cabinet's decision and he tells of the role his party played in finding an agreed upon formula. [begin recording]

[Ben-Me'ir] It is a fact--and this too is no secret--that the MAFDAL ministers submitted their own proposal in yesterday's cabinet meeting as well as in contacts outside the cabinet. It is true that our representatives in the cabinet did not submit their proposal for a vote because they were of the opinion--and our entire faction is of the opinion--that at this moment the differences in formulation are less important than that the cabinet's decision be passed by as large a majority as possible--that it be passed with maximum government unity. [end recording]

[Barqay] MK Hayyim Corfu of the Likud attacks the Alinement over its alternative peace plan and defends Begin's government. [begin recording]

[Corfu] There is no doubt that the present vote [words indistinct] the fact that today we are getting U.S. agreement, and even more than the United States, to the IDF remaining in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza even after a period of 5 years, the fact that today there is explicit and not implied agreement about the non-establishment of a Palestinian state, the fact that today there is no mention of the PLO--all this when only a few months ago, in October 1977, we were still faced with the joint U.S.-Soviet plan to convene the Geneva conference. [end recording]

[Barqay] The last of the speakers up to now--MAPAM Secretary Me'ir Talmi. [begin recording]

[Talmi] The cabinet's decision is not surprising. It again proves that this government is unable to advance the negotiations toward peace. The chance that we have waited for for many years is slowly being wasted and is being replaced by a move that is bringing us closer to the brink of war. Against the background of the deadlock in the negotiations with Egypt, Israel's ministers were holding lively negotiations over magic words. [end recording]

[Barqay] As has been said the debate continues and it will end at about 2200.

By the way, President Yizhaq Navon was present at the beginning of the meeting. He listened to the speakers and left the building about an hour ago. Most of the Knesset members are also now passing their time outside the chamber until the vote.

WEST BANK MAYORS PROTEST AGAINST CABINET DECISION

TA200715Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Four mayors in Judaea and Samaria have again rejected the cabinet's autonomy program.

The mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanun, said that the Jews will have the opportunity to increase their numbers in Judaea and Samaria during the 5 years and so they, too, will affect the referendum.

The mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, called on Begin to negotiate with the PLO, which he says is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

The mayor of Hebron, Fahd Qawasimi, said that the matter of the questions and the answers is the affair of the United States and Israel and not of the inhabitants of the territories. However, he recalled that he had been opposed to the idea of self-rule from the beginning.

The mayor of Nabulus, Bassam Shak'a, said that Israel's answer was devoid of content and the Palestinians would not agree to it. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Ibari reports that the four of them gave interviews to the East Jerusalem paper AS-SHA'B.

POST CRITICIZES REPLY TO U.S. AS 'IRRELEVANT'

TA190900Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Jun 78 p 10 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The majority decision of the cabinet yesterday purports to be, but really is not, a reply to the U.S. questionnaire about the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza after the first five years of suggested autonomy.

Instead of telling Washington, straightforwardly, whether it was or was not, prepared to discuss the "final status" of the territories when the time for review came up, Jerusalem chose to give its consent to a consideration of "the nature of relations between the parties." This irrelevant answer was neither a yes, nor a no, nor even a maybe. It was, and remains, a blank.

It represents a cabinet compromise devised by Foreign Minister Dayan and put forward by Premier Begin. But it will not advance the chances of a resumption of peace talks. It will only reinforce President as-Sadat's glowing image abroad as a frustrated peacemaker, despite the fact that it was he who broke off the nascent negotiations last January.

It will also hasten the day when the U.S. administration, certain of more than adequate backing at home, even from the American Jewish community, will step in with its plan for a more-or-less imposed settlement.

All this appears to have been fairly well appreciated by the four DMC ministers who voted for their "positive" version of a reply, as well as by Defense Minister Weizman. It was only to avoid an open break within the Likud--which might have forced not only his own resignation but also a cabinet crisis--that Mr Weizman cast his vote against both motions.

But was it truly in the national interest for Mr Weizman to decline to stand up and challenge the premier? For that matter, was it the public weal that motivated some of those ministers who actually went along with the majority decision although, deep in their hearts, they must have known it to be based on a dangerous delusion?

Such criticism does not apply to those cabinet ministers who would not commit themselves, under any conditions, to a discussion of the "final status" of the territories, because that is patently a code word for the eventual transferral of at least parts of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza to foreign rule.

It most certainly does apply to those estimable politicians who realize full well that an honorable territorial compromise is Israel's best ultimate hope in negotiations, but who keep supporting a potentially disastrous policy course for the ship of state to keep their own little boat from rocking.

MINISTER BURG: NO LOGIC IN U.S. DEMAND FOR COMMITMENT

TA191108Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 19 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] The minister of the interior and the police, Yosef Burg, said last night that there is no logic in the U.S. demand for a commitment right now to what ought to happen after 5 years.

According to the minister, policy should not be conducted by asking questions, but by sitting down together. Dr Burg said that the cabinet decision willingly and deliberately left the door open both for a talk with Washington and for a talk with Cairo. The Middle East needs a period of relaxation while maintaining quiet contacts and he expressed the hope that this would indeed happen--Dr Burg said.

HADDAD TALKS TO REPORTER DURING VISIT TO METULLA

TA200635Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Christian commander Maj Sa'd Haddad has denied reports that he has been placed under house arrest by Christian militiamen in southern Lebanon. Haddad was speaking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami last night, while on a private visit to Metulla.

He said he had no idea of the source of various reports in recent days of his arrest. At the moment, says Haddad, he is continuing to obey instructions from Beirut and is refraining from any activity. The Lebanese Army major also said that he knew nothing of a report by the Egyptian news agency, quoted by Radio Cairo, saying the Lebanese authorities intended to take him to Beirut and to institute proceedings against him.

Haddad was not prepared to comment on the current situation in southern Lebanon. Our reporter adds that, in fact, the region is quiet and although the Christian militiamen continue to insist that they should control the defense of the region, they are allowing the United Nations movement and have lifted the siege on a number of UN units in the area, but other Christian militia leaders say they do not recognize Major Haddad and will fight any UN force that tries to enter their areas.

The commander in Bint Jubayl said that Major Haddad and Major Shidyaq are free to act as civilians, but declared if they tried to follow the orders of the United Nations, we will break their necks.

S. LEBANON ACCORD SEEN ON BRINK OF COLLAPSE

TA190945Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Jun 78 p 1 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The delicate balance of forces in southern Lebanon is on the brink of collapse, a senior Israeli military figure told the Jerusalem POST last night.

The source said that unless Israel adopted a clear policy within the next few days, and encouraged the Christian militias to patch up their relations with the UN peace-keeping force, UNIFIL, the situation could deteriorate rapidly. This, less than one week after Israel withdrew the last of its forces from the area. The IDF had occupied south Lebanon in an anti-terrorist operation three months ago.

Yesterday UNIFIL's commander, General Emmanuel Erskine, met with Israeli authorities for over two hours and complained that the south Lebanese Christian commander, Major Sa'd Haddad was not keeping to his part of a bargain, reached with Israeli intervention last week, to allow UNIFIL certain access to Christian-held areas.

The Ghanaian general reportedly took a dim view of Haddad presenting him with a list of 32 alleged "breakaway" militia organizations in southern Lebanon, over which Haddad now claims he has no control.

Both Israeli and UNIFIL officers are extremely peeved at what they consider to be a thinly disguised "infantile plot," whereby Haddad had himself arrested over the weekend by "uncontrollable militias" to prove his point.

What has got UNIFIL leaders upset now is Haddad's troops' refusal to allow symbolic UNIFIL positions to be established on the periphery of the Christian enclaves (as was agreed upon last week) and to allow UNIFIL vehicles to take supplies from Metulla to the Norwegian contingent in Fatahland on roads which run through the enclaves.

Haddad reportedly threatened at one stage that UNIFIL helicopters flying over Christian enclaves would be shot down--a threat which he withdrew after last week's meeting, but which apparently still stands since Haddad now claims to have lost control.

UNIFIL officers are somewhat skeptical about Haddad's claim to have lost control over his own "rejectionist front" since he has always been billed by Israel as being the central, authoritative figure in the south. This is also the position of the Lebanese Government in Beirut.

"There seems to be a great deal of expediency in Haddad's latest protestations of weakness," a source told the POST yesterday.

This is obviously the view of the Americans as well. On Friday U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met with Foreign Ministry Director-General Efrayim Evron and is understood to have hinted that it was high time Israel exerted some control over Haddad.

There is a strong suspicion here, both in UNIFIL and in Israeli circles, that Haddad is being pushed into his current posture by a highly influential Israeli military adviser, with whom he has maintained a relationship for over a year, and who is not happy with having UNIFIL troops hampering Christian independence.

Haddad has also been relatively free from any formal Israeli pressure to abide by the agreement which was made following Israel's withdrawal on June 13. Israel, it seems, is not willing to become reenmeshed in the internal affairs of south Lebanon so soon after the withdrawal.

So now there is no formal control over the estimated 3,000 armed (by Israel) Christians in the south, nor is there any single body which is responsible for their actions.

The senior Israeli source told the POST that instead of devoting their energies to preventing terrorist infiltration, UNIFIL has been trying to come to terms with the Christians. The growing ill feeling between the Christians and UNIFIL officers has inadvertently improved the UN troops' relations with the PLO, with whom contacts have been "cordial and correct" these past weeks, according to a UN source.

'SYRIA ENCOURAGES TERRORISTS TO INFILTRATE JORDAN'

TA192229Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Recently Syria has been encouraging the infiltration of terrorists from its territory into Jordanian territory. This is according to remarks by people in Judaea and Samaria who are in touch with the Amman government. Our Arab affairs correspondent says that it appears that the terrorist attack on Mehulla was not an exception but a manifestation of the effort to heat up the Jordan Valley front and strengthen the underground infrastructure of the PLO in Jordan.

Our correspondent says that this Syrian activity should be seen against the background of the situation in southern Lebanon where the Syrians are demanding that the PLO freeze all activity against Israel.

Our correspondent also points out that it is possible that the terrorist infiltration into Jordan is one of the causes of the cooling down of relations between the Amman and Damascus governments.

CYPRIOT SHIP SEIZED OFF LEBANESE COAST RELEASED

TA191831Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jun 78 TA

[Text] It has been learned this evening that the Cypriot ship that was stopped yesterday was brought to Haifa for investigation and was released during the night. This has been learned by our correspondent.

The Lebanese Army headquarters in Beirut maintains that the navy took control of a Lebanese [as heard] merchant ship sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon. A report from terrorist sources says that the ship was carrying arms and the Lebanese Army had received prior information of this.

RIOTERS ATTACK FERDOWSI UNIVERSITY; GUARD KILLED

LD191116Y Teheran PARS in English 1015 GMT 19 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Fifteen masked rioters disguised as students attacked Ferdowsi University in Mashhad at 5:30 this morning. They set fire to the transformer room in the faculty of science and threw explosives into the guard room, killing one guard and injuring two. One of the injured guards is in a critical condition. The rioters smashed some of the university windows and escaped.

SHAH HOLDS TALKS WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA

LD170930Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 17 Jun 78 LD

[Text] In Niavaran Palace this morning the shahanshah aryamehr also received in an audience PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua. The audience was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari and by Mr Esfandiari, the shahanshah aryamehr's ambassador in Peking, and by several of those accompanying the PRC foreign minister.

The PRC foreign minister and those accompanying him had a luncheon in the presence of the shahanshah aryamehr today.

This morning PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua also met and had talks with Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar. The meeting was also attended by the supervisor of the seventh political department of the Foreign Ministry and the PRC ambassador to the Imperial Court.

Huang Hua Departs

LD180938Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 18 Jun 78 LD

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Huang Hua, who came to our country on a 3-day official visit, left Teheran last night. Yesterday he was received by the shah and he gave him a message from Peking's leaders. Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad Airport, Mr Huang Hua expressed his pleasure over being received by the shah. He also voiced his appreciation of the results of his talks with Iranian officials, adding that he hoped relations between Iran and the PRC would become even stronger in the future.

While stressing the profound and ancient friendship between Iran and China, Mr Huang Hua said: [begin recording]

[Huang Hua in Chinese fading to Persian translation] We support the idea of cooperation among the Persian Gulf states to strengthen their economies. We are certain that cooperation among the Persian Gulf states on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence would be in the interests of all these countries. [end recording]

INDIA

VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS MARK GANDHI'S AHMEDABAD VISIT

BK190942Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] In Ahmedabad, there were violent demonstrations yesterday during the 1-day visit of Mrs Gandhi to the city. Police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowds. At least a dozen persons are believed to have been injured in stone-throwing incidents.

The demonstrations are reported to have been preceded with some elements throwing stones at a procession of Yuva Janata [Janata Party Youth] volunteers. The Yuva Janata supporters had earlier announced their decision to stage a black flag demonstration.

Following the incident, Mrs Gandhi changed her route on the advice of the police.

Speaking at a public meeting she criticized the Janata Party government for steps which she alleged have resulted in a fall in production.

PAKISTAN

CHINESE VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO VISITS PAKISTAN

Formal Talks Begin

BK161336Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Formal Talks between Pakistan and China began in Islamabad this afternoon. The vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, are leading their respective delegations at the talks. They are being assisted by their senior aides.

Soon after the talks, the Chinese vice premier and members of his delegation are visiting [words indistinct].

Keng Comments on Talks

BK181604Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, has said he has had useful discussions with the chief martial law administrator during the first round of talks. He told newsmen at Shakot this afternoon that he was satisfied and very pleased with the talks.

Our diplomatic correspondent says the talks, which began in Islamabad on Friday, are to be resumed tomorrow. There will be two rounds of talks tomorrow between the two leaders.

Banquet Statement

BK170943Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 17 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that friendship between Pakistan and China is deep-rooted and is now at its zenith. Speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of the visiting Chinese vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, in Rawalpindi last night, he said the friendship between the two countries was not based on expediency, but it has withstood successfully the test of time. He said the full manifestation of this friendship had been personally witnessed by him during his visit to China in December last year, and love and affection shown to him by the Chinese leaders and the people would always remain fresh in our minds.

He said the two countries had a common history of struggle against colonialism and exploitation. They have common objectives of achieving the prosperity for their people and a lasting international peace.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that we believe that for the prosperity of the international community it was essential that every country felt peace and secured within the confines of its boundaries. Such an atmosphere could only be insured on the basis of the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states, mutual nonaggressio and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. He said that on the basis of these principles, Pakistan is trying to promote relations with all the countries, particularly wi its neighbors.

He said Pakistan sincerely wanted to bring normalization with India. However, Kashmir is t main obstacle in its relations. He said there could be no dependable friendship and lastin peace in the region without the settlement of the Kashmir issue.

In reply, the Chinese vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, said that friendship between the people of Pakistan and China and friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries have grown stronger and developed steadily. General Ziaul Haq's visit to China had made a positive contribution to the thorough enhancement of the amicable relations between their two countries. He said the completion of the Karakoram Highway, a joint undertaking of the two countries, was a crystallization of the friendly relations between them and will have a permanent place in the annals in the Sino-Pakistan relations.

Haq Statements on Afghanistan

BK171050Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 17 Jun 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, June 17 (AFP)--Pakistan is "deeply interested in the stability of Afghanistan" and wishes "its leaders success in their efforts for national progress and development" Pakistani military ruler General Ziaul Haq said yesterday.

The remark came at the end of a banquet in honour of visiting Chinese Vice Premier Keng Piao, following a round of talks between the two leaders.

The regional situation and cooperation, notably with Afghanistan after the April coup, were believed to have been discussed at the talks. "We are deeply interested in the stability of Afghanistan" and the welfare of its people for whom we cherish the sentiment of friendship and brotherhood," General Zia said, adding that Pakistan had made clear to the new Afghan leadership "that our relations with Afghanistan are based on the accepted principles of peaceful coexistence and that we are opposed to taking advantage of each other's difficulties.

We hope that friendship and cooperation between the two countries will strengthen regional stability and world peace."

Comments on Kabul's "democratic revolution" had been rare in recent weeks among Pakistani authorities. General Zia has only said Pakistan wanted "good relations" with Afghanistan.

Karakoram Highway Inauguration

BK1811104Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 18 Jun 78 BK

[Text] This morning, the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, inaugurated the 500-mile long Karakoram Highway built with Chinese assistance. The Chinese vice premier, Mr Keng Piao, who was present on the occasion, joined the CMLA in cutting the ribbon. Members of the high-powered Chinese delegation also took part in the inaugural ceremony which took place at Shakot, near Mansera.

The CMLA said Pakistan and China have drawn closer as a result of the construction of the Karakoram Highway, and a new era has opened in relations between the two countries. He said that just as the Great Wall of China is considered a great feat of ancient times, the Karakoram Highway will be acknowledged as a great modern achievement. He said the highway is a monument to the courage, skill, hard work and sacrifice of thousands of persons and a brilliant landmark of Pakistani-Chinese friendship that will guide the coming generations.

He said the Karakoram Highway has linked Mansera with Shakot, Bisham, Patan, Chilas and Gilgit up to the Chinese border and opened up areas which were inaccessable before. Facilities which were till now only a dream will be available to the people of these areas as a result of the highway. He declared that we can now easily explore natural resources and hoped that new avenues of national prosperity will be tapped as a result of this.

He stated that over 400 Pakistani and Chinese workers sacrificed their lives in completing this project, and we pay homage to their memory today. He prayed for the martyrs of the highway construction.

In his speech, Chinese Vice Premier, Keng Piao, said the completion of the highway proves to the world how earnest the people of China and Pakistan are in overcoming difficulties. This depicts the real nature of Pakistani-Chinese friendship. He said the workers participating in the construction have converted a [words indistinct] into a highway. The Chinese vice premier said closer ties will develop between the two countries as a result of the completion of the highway. Paying homage to Pakistani and Chinese workers who lost their lives in the construction of this friendship highway, he said we feel deeply grieved over this loss of life today. He expressed sincere sympathy to the families of the deceased. Thirty-eight awards were presented to Chinese workers for their skilled services. The president has approved these awards, among them the Hilale Qaide-Azam, the Sitara-E-Pakistan, and the Tamga-E-Imtiaz. The Chinese vice premier also presented a gift to Pakistani workers who took part in the project.

Radio Pakistan says the route from the helipad to the Shakot Bridge, where the ceremony was held, was decorated with the flags of the two nations, arches and colorful buntings. Slogans of Pakistani-Chinese friendship were shouted at the end of the ceremony.

Documents were signed and exchanged on the occasion. The communications secretary, Maj Gen Shafqat Ahmed Syed, and China's vice minister of communications, Mr Pan Chi, signed the documents for their respective sides.

Talks Resume

BK190828Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Chinese Vice Premier Mr Keng Piao resumed their talks in Rawalpindi this morning. They held their first round of their talks last Friday.

The chief martial law administrator was assisted in the talks by the adviser on coordination and planning, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan; the adviser on establishment, Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chisti; the adviser on finance and economic affairs, Mr A.G.N. Kazi; the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi; and Foreign Secretary S. Shahnawaz. Participating in the talks on the Chinese side in addition to the vice premier were the vice minister for communications, Mr Pan Chi; the director of the Asian Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry, Mr Shen Ping; the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Lu Wei-chao; and other senior officials.

Talks Conclude

BK191551Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jun 78 BK

[Text] The third round of talks between the chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Chinese Vice Premier Keng Piao concluded a short while ago in Rawalpindi. The talks lasted for 2 hours and 45 minutes.

The second round of talks was held this morning and lasted for more than 3 hours.

In their talks today, the two leaders discussed Pakistani-Chinese relations and the situation in the region. They also reviewed the international situation.

The chief martial law administrator was assisted in the talks by Adviser on Coordination and Planning Mr Ghluam Ishaque Khan, Adviser on Establishment Lt Gen Faiz Ali Chisti, Adviser on Finance and Economic Affairs A.G.N. Kazi, Adviser on Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi and Foreign Secretary S. Shahnawaz. Present on the Chinese vice premier's side were Vice Minister for Communications Pan Chi, Director of Asian Affairs in the Chinese Foreign Ministry Shen Ping, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Lu Wei-chao and other senior officials. The first round of talks was held on Friday.

BRIEFS

PRC INDUSTRIAL TEAM IN NEPAL--A 10-member Chinese industrial survey team arrived in Katmandu on 15 June to start a feasibility survey of the ceramics, paper pulp and sugar industries in Nepal. The delegation, which consists of engineers and economists, is expected to complete the study in about 1 month. [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 14 Jun 78 BK]

UN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH--The total expenditure for all UN activities in Bangladesh is expected to touch $95 million during the next financial year. This was disclosed by the UN resident representative in Bangladesh in Dacca on 13 June. Meanwhile, UNICEF has approved $43.5 million for child care in Bangladesh during 1978-80. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jun 78 BK]

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